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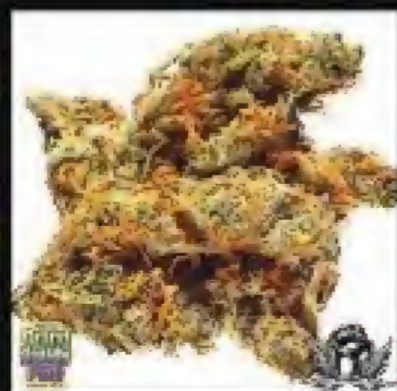
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HIGH TIMES MAY



“The maintenance that goes into cultivating is a lot of work for one person. I’m not just talking about the setup and breakdown. It’s the daily work—all of your plants require individual attention.”

—Banking on Buds, page 65

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Danny Danko reveals what it takes to get a good cannabis cultivation start in the spring, so you can harvest heavy in the fall. Tips on germinating seeds, rooting clones, pruning and more.

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Hunter S. Thompson was one the first supporters of NORML (the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws). NORML founder Keith Stroup remembers what it was like to work and party with the inventor of gonzo journalism.

58 Talking Terpenes

These cousins of cannabinoids are the reason why cannabis strains all smell so different from each other. They are also the key to pot’s medicinal properties. *By Martin A. Lee*

65 Banking on Buds

The million-dollar growroom is no longer just a fantasy. Top growers across the country have committed themselves to producing buds for the ever-growing cannabis community. *By Dan Skye*

80 Grandmaster Fresh

Its revolutionary torch tubes and killer collaborations have made Hitman Glass the hottest name in dab paraphernalia. Senior editor Bobby Black sits down with the company’s founder, Dougie Fresh, for a game of “concentrate chess.”

90 High Times Interview: Nick Offerman

Best known as Ron Swanson on NBC’s *Parks and Recreation*, Nick Offerman brought a handcrafted pot pipe and stashbox to his interview, then helped us whip up a batch of Maple Bacon Ganja Chocolate Chip Cookies! *By David Bienenstock*

Pharmazeon Glassee



The Med+ainer

2013

Handwritten signature

HIGH TIMES

DIGITAL

► Glass Artist of the Month

Micro's work is a tip of the hat to the side-scrolling video games of the 1980s. His pipes are frequently decorated with miniature layered scenes and bright line work. He's been at work for over 12 years and is mostly self-taught. In the past few years, demand for his work has exploded. His pipes have been featured in top-end gallery shows in New York, Los Angeles and Kobe, Japan. Micro spends a good deal of time teaching others his techniques in workshops and seminars, including a new online learning system for glassblowers. Despite a preference for hiding out and working in his Milwaukee studio, he's competed in several team and solo glassblowing competitions worldwide. View Micro's work at hightimes.com/glass.



Micro manages the torch.

► A New Generation of High Times

Come 4/20, the way you experience *High Times* will be changed forever. While we're in Denver celebrating our first-ever US Cannabis Cup, we'll also be counting down to the official relaunch of *HighTimes.com*, a major step forward as we usher in a new era of interactive offerings. Our new site will allow us to further teach the world to grow at the click of a button and will provide readers with an avenue to stay tapped in to up-to-the-minute news from the fronts of activism and the War on Drugs. Not only that, but you'll be able to catch videos from our latest celebrity interviews, take peaks behind the scenes at our events and view a steady stream of grow tips from our cultivation experts. This won't be a simple "re-skin" of our site but an entire overhaul of what we offer, as technology and public support for cannabis evolve and grow at sonic speeds.

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 AGE: 23
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To enter or rate contestants, go to misshightimes.com. You must be 18 years or older to enter.

POT POLL

Drivin' High

When we inquired whether you drive while high, we received over 500 responses in less than a week. The poll, titled Taking the High Road, sparked lively commentary, with most respondents claiming that pot made them safer, less aggressive drivers. Still, the results have a dark side. If anti-pot politicians and law enforcement ever get their way and start testing drivers for THC in their system, virtually our entire community would lose their licenses! Check out hightimes.com/polls and cast your vote in our latest poll.



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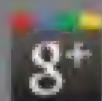
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My Pen Pals



There's this guy who sends me books on how to kill people, how to win knife fights, how to shoot down helicopters, how to booby-trap things, how to build improvised explosive devices ... I don't know what his deal is, really. He writes me letters suggesting that if I reviewed these books, I might inspire our readers to rise up and wage some kind of stoner version of Helter Skelter against the Man. I told him to

save his money and stop sending me the books, but he sends them anyway. He also asks us to print stories about men disciplining their wives and girlfriends. A lonely man is a time bomb, I always say.

Another guy seems to be going through some sort of legal battle that is shattering his sanity. He sends me Xeroxed court documents, messianic rants and CDRs that I don't dare put into my computer.

Those are the extreme cases.

Often I get pictures of people's growrooms—their most recent harvests or prized buds. One time years ago, some guy sent a Polaroid of his girlfriend snorting coke. What was he thinking? In fact, we have a whole file of girlfriend/nudie shots that we don't know what to do with. We've gotten pictures of people's pets getting high—droopy-eyed bulldogs with vaporizer tubes sticking out of their mouths, parakeets with joints in their beaks.

We do get some useful stuff as well, such as high-quality bud shots or well-written grow articles accompanied by photos. Professional journalists query us on pieces they'd like to write. I get many letters from people claiming to be the next Hunter S. Thompson, though not one of these folks has ever come close. Last year, we received a piece about some guys down in Colombia who trekked out to FARC country to check out their massive marijuana fields. That kind of blew my mind.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, I read the stuff that gets sent to us. I don't always respond, but regardless, it keeps me in touch with our readership. Sometimes I get articles that are ready for publication as is; other times I get a lead that's worth following up. And now that the *High Times* staff is traveling around the country for our domestic Medical Cannabis Cups (San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver, Detroit and Seattle so far), we might even be in a position to visit some of the places you rave about in your letters.

Who knows?

So I'll just conclude by saying: Keep the letters, suggestions, photos, articles, rants, prison stories and pet/bud/girlfriend pictures coming. I get a kick out of knowing that the people who read our magazine are as crazy as the ones who produce it.

Chris Simunek
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First Responders Aren't Always Heroes

I just wanted to let *High Times* know something that happened to my wife and me. We lost everything in a grease fire from cooking. My wife needs her medicine and was growing marijuana plants in the attic. The fire department found them, and she was arrested. We are hard-working people and not criminals, but they treated us like dirt—the police and fire department both. So since they found the plants and it was in the police report, nobody seems to want to help us (though a few people have). I know it is illegal, but we are good people and it's just a plant. We had no insurance and now we're down to the clothes on our back. I wish this prohibition would end. It doesn't work, and people need to be educated on the good things about marijuana. I just wanted to tell our story. I think what you guys do is great. God bless!

Michael

A Blessing of Mental Health and Healing

Hello, my name is Darius Wright. I am the 52-year-old owner of Fountain of Youth Fitness and Health LLC, of Philadelphia/South Jersey. I am a natural-health consultant, fitness trainer, health advocate for the people and a survivor of over four decades of suffering.

My story is one that debunks the premise that smoking marijuana for decades has a debilitating effect on the body and mind. Today, my mind is sharper and my health better than ever. I survived alcohol addiction, crack addiction, malnutrition, suicidal depression and so much more. Without the weed to calm my mental state and help me to eat and sleep, it would have been a very difficult (if not impossible) road.

Marijuana is a blessing from nature, and I realized that more than 30 years ago, in my early twenties, but no one would believe me. Even during those days, I was having trouble eating, because we drank so much alcohol daily. My digestive tract, liver and such were being decimated. I kept telling people that I smoked weed because it helped me to eat. I also used it to keep my stomach soothed, since I had frequent stomach aches/nausea from crap foods, junk foods, alcohol and hard drugs. No one believed me back then, but now the medical field knows it's a fact. Throughout the years, I have used weed to help me stay at peace and deal with this imbalanced society and world. My story is one



Throughout the years, I have used weed to help me stay at peace and deal with this imbalanced society and world.

of natural healing, when death was what I expected.

Darius Wright
President, Fountain of Youth Fitness and Health LLC

Thanks for your inspiring story, Darius. It shows there's consolation in knowing that so many of us were right about this plant all along.

Landrace Strains

A longtime fan and reader here. I have a collection of your magazines that includes a copy of the first *High Times* my dad bought, in 1974. You really present info to the public in an educated yet entertaining way. For that, I thank you guys. Stoners used to have a bad image, but in recent years I have seen that change. This is no doubt a result of the efforts put forth by your magazine and other pro-cannabis organizations.

I have been cultivating cannabis for years now. Recently, I have taken an interest in genetics and breeding. This interest led me to plan a grow for two landrace strains: Mazar-i-Sharif, which is an Afghani *indica*, and Thimphu, a *sativa* from Bhutan. I was wondering what seed companies you guys recommend for landrace strains, and if you had any other advice?

TS

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The Mazar genetics are available in seed form from the Dutch Passion Seed Company in Amsterdam. As for Bhutanese seeds, Mandala Genetics specializes in Indian and subcontinental landraces. In terms of other recommendations for landrace genetics, Nirvana Seeds, Sagarmatha Seeds and Sensi Seeds all carry landrace strains, though the ultimate purity of any landrace is questionable these days. We also recommend the Vancouver Island Seed Company as a surprisingly strong resource for outdoor landrace strains, specializing in those from Southeast Asia (Thailand, Burma and Vietnam).

More on the War

I was interested to read the first letter in the January '13 issue, in which Benton asked for suggestions on books about the War on Drugs. This has long been a passion of mine, and there are two books in particular that I would recommend. While both of these books aren't pot-centric, neither is the War on Drugs.

The first is *The Pursuit of Oblivion: A Global History of Narcotics* by Richard Davenport-Hines, where he pretty much maps out drug use and the path to prohibition and beyond in the West since the 17th century. The second is *The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia* by Alfred W. McCoy, which delves into the area of government and especially CIA complicity in the illicit drug trade.

Finally, I would recommend the website *DrugText.org*, where you can find multiple documents, including the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotics and much, much more.

Fleon

Thanks for the excellent suggestions, Fleon!

Room for 'Shrooms

How about a 'shroomer version of High Times? Or a 'shroom section? We're very isolated; no magazines or supportive political parties. (At least none that I am aware of.) Or please print more articles on mushrooms and other psychedelics.

JD

You make a good point, JD, and this summer, look for a *High Times* psychedelic special. If you desire to hang out with like-minded mycophiles, you might want to check out Shroomfest, which happens every August in Telluride, CO (shroomfest.com), or the website shroomery.org, which has all kinds of information and community boards.



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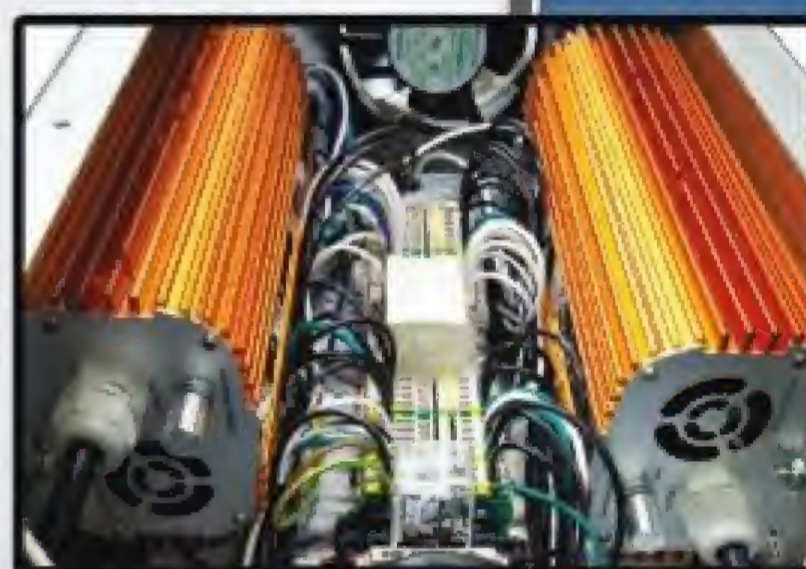
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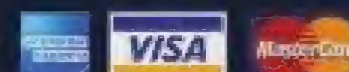
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BANKING ON BUDS There's been a seismic shift in the philosophy of growing. With the rise of legalization, growers are focused more than ever on organization and efficiency in order to maximize profits and grab hold of market share in the burgeoning new economy. Read about three such entrepreneurs on page 65. *Photo by Lochfoot*

**Contact
High**



Contact High

THE NOSE KNOWS What gives marijuana that special fragrance of mango or skunk or blueberry or diesel fuel? It's the terpenes. Cousin of the cannabinoids, they provide cannabis its unique aroma and high. Why does one strain give you couch lock and another strain make you want to go dancing? You got it! Terpenes! Find out more on page 58. *Photo by Ry Prichard*





CONCENTRATE CHESS When senior editor Bobby Black learned that Hitman Glass founder Dougie Fresh hadn't yet played (or puffed) on the incredible Legend Set (by Banjo and Tristan) from their *Chess Pieces* collection, he proposed they christen it with a game of "concentrate chess" during their interview. Fresh enthusiastically agreed. They laughed, they cried and they coughed ... to find out who won, turn to page 80.

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Highwitness News

Drug Czar makes no sense—as usual.



Entertainment

Rock Me Flosstradamus

Their new joint is rolled from many strains. p.27



Food

Mystical Disco Fries

A new take on spuds and buds. p.34



It's time for pot prisoners to stop doing time.



Pardoning Pot Prisoners

A new petition asks President Obama to commute the sentences of five federal prisoners sentenced to life without parole for nonviolent marijuana offenses. *By Chris Simunek*

Dear Mr. President,
 [These five] petitioners are each serving life sentences without possibility of parole for their common crime: selling marijuana. These crimes in common and the criminal histories of these men involve absolutely no allegations of violence. Petitioners are well into their sixties, the age of normal retirement. Each has served at least 15 years in prison, exclusively for selling marijuana. Indeed, the average length of incarceration each of the five Petitioners has endured is 19 years. Without presidential clemency, each will die in prison.

So begins the first shot across the bow in the effort to free long-term marijuana prisoners in the wake of the landmark votes in Washington and Colorado legalizing marijuana for recreational use. Filed shortly after President Obama's reelection in November 2012, this appeal for executive clemency seeks commutation or immediate parole consideration for five federal prisoners: John Knock, Paul Free, William Dekle, Larry Duke and Charles Cundiff. Nearly two years in the making, the petition is the result of the combined efforts of Michael Kennedy and David Holland, two New York attorneys, and Beth Curtis, the creator of the website *LifeforPot.com* and the sister of the aforementioned John Knock.

Thus far, Obama has been decidedly stingy with pardons and commutations, granting only 23 as of January 2013. Of those pardoned, only one person had served significant prison time: Eugenia Marie Jennings, who was sentenced in 2002 to 20 years for possession with intent to distribute 13.9 grams of crack. Despite the president's pardon record, Curtis believes this is one issue he could address without a risk of political fallout.

"Prominent individuals on the left and the right are advocating for the legalization of this plant and would feel comfortable with this commutation request," she explains. "Since these five inmates have all been imprisoned for over 15 years, they have more than paid their dues, and a commutation will save taxpayers millions of dollars. This commutation is fiscally responsible, compatible with civil liberties—and it's the right thing to do."

When Curtis created *LifeforPot.com*, the initial reaction she got from most people was sheer disbelief that there could still be prisoners serving such long sentences for nonviolent marijuana crimes.

"Most Americans do not understand sentencing," Curtis says. "They do not know about the role of mandatory minimums in the federal system. They do

“I don't know that, in effect, conspiracy laws make it possible for prosecutors to charge and try you for crimes you were not involved in and had no knowledge of. On top of that, there is the sentencing ‘enhancement’ that a defendant receives for deciding to go to trial instead of taking a plea agreement. This means that somewhere between 93 and 96 percent of defendants who choose to exercise their Sixth Amendment right to trial are found guilty and receive sentences that may be six times higher than those who accept a plea.”

When it comes to American attitudes toward pot, we live in a far different world today than existed 15 years ago, when the five men who are the subject of this petition were sentenced. The sheer volume of marijuana that is sold legally under state law in one year by one of the busiest medical dispensaries dwarfs the amounts for which these people were tried, convicted and sent to prison. There is no vast outcry at the fact that today, marijuana is sold openly in a number of medical states—yet the impact upon society by this loosening of the laws has been minimal.

And while none of these prisoners was selling marijuana for medicinal

The sheer volume of marijuana that is sold legally under state law in one year by one of the busiest medical dispensaries dwarfs the amounts for which these people were tried, convicted and sent to prison.

use, their sentences were based on the erroneous assumption that marijuana, as a Schedule I narcotic, is a substance that has no proven medical value and that is *more* harmful than morphine, cocaine and methamphetamine. As any unbiased review of the scientific research indicates, this is simply not the case. In allowing medical marijuana to blossom into a quasi-legal multimillion-dollar industry, the federal government has, in effect, admitted that marijuana use does not represent a significant threat to the health and welfare of American society.

When asked recently if the federal government planned to intervene in the wake of the state initiatives in Washington and Colorado, Obama replied, “We’ve got bigger fish to fry. It would not make sense for us to see a top priority as going

after recreational users in states that have determined that it’s legal.”

The foundation of the argument for punishing marijuana distribution with severe sentences has collapsed since these men were sent to prison. Their cases must be reexamined through the prism of this subsequent enlightenment. This appeal for clemency is the only hope of freedom for five men who were effectively sentenced to die in prison for an act that is now legal in two states. It is our hope that when the president considers this petition, he sees that the decision he must make is as obvious as the injustice it addresses. ✨

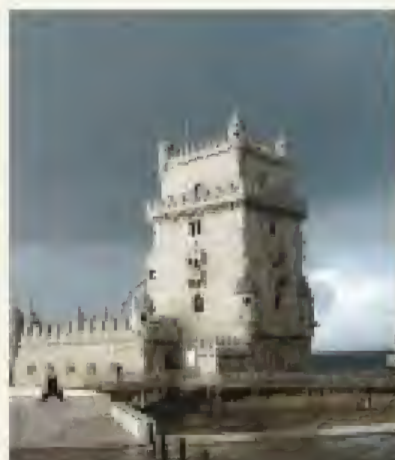
Read the petition here:

http://norml.org/pdf_files/brief_bank/petition_for_clemency.pdf

HIGH FIVE

Euro-Pot

Amsterdam is still the center of cannabis tourism, but other marijuana-friendly metropolises are on the rise. *By Mark Miller*



LISBON, PORTUGAL
The trendy capital city is situated in a country that decriminalized cannabis (and all other drug possession) in 2001. But there are conflicting reports on the availability of weed on the street. One reported hot spot is the Aqueduto das Águas Livres, site of the largest stone arch in the world. Among the options proffered by immigrant peddlers under the arch, however, hashish seems to be more plentiful than pot.



PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
Sometimes referred to as New Amsterdam, the Czech capital offers plenty of easy access to pot and hash. Technically, only undefined “small amounts” of pot are legal to possess. Beware of street dealers ripping off tourists with bunk product: It’s safer and smarter to hit the nightclub district and purchase in bars, where the average price per gram runs 300 Czech koruna (about \$15.50).



FREETOWN CHRISTIANIA, DENMARK
When visiting this hippie haven on the grounds of an abandoned army barracks in a splendid district of Copenhagen, THC devotees should proceed directly to Pusher Street, a stretch of city block offering plenty of pot as well as Europe’s beloved hash. The prices per gram range from 29 Danish kroner (\$5) to 115 kroner (\$20) for top-shelf; get it prerolled or in loose buds.



LONDON, UK
Skunk is among the most plentiful strains in postmillennial, postmodern, jolly old London. The UK has seen a record number of pot gardens busted in the last year, signaling that cultivation and availability are both on the rise. Avoid street joints mixed with tobacco. Pot here is a Class B drug, which makes possession illegal. Your first offense is just a warning; the second offense brings a fine.



IBIZA, SPAIN
Not a city but an island, historic Ibiza has earned a well-deserved reputation as a beachfront stoners’ paradise. Exquisite Purple buds and other superstrains are plentiful here, while a thriving electronic dance music/rave scene pounds away, adding to overall stoner merriment. Public possession and use are a misdemeanor fine, but in many private locales in Spain, pot is essentially legal.



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Stirring the IQ Pot

Last year, the mainstream media trumpeted a Duke University study that found teen pot use is “dangerous for the developing brain.” But Swedish researcher Ole Rogeberg now asserts that a person’s economic status and education have a far more profound effect on IQ than pot smoking.

Rogeberg claims good education and challenging jobs can boost intelligence, but “if people are pushed out or decide to move out of these kinds of arenas, they will tend to see an IQ decline, and they will also be the type of people who tend to take up cannabis during adolescence.”

That’s a huge departure from Duke’s study, which relied on data from a survey of 1,037 people from New Zealand who were followed for more than three decades. Researchers said pot smokers could lose up to eight points in IQ levels. Addressing Rogeberg’s criticism that the study ignored socioeconomic factors, Duke insisted that the study included only kids from middle-class families, eliminating the effects of socioeconomic status. But Rogeberg says those steps can’t rule out other factors as the cause for lower IQ.

Pot in the Mainstream

Troy Dayton, the CEO of the ArcView Group, a San Francisco-based company that connects investors and entrepreneurs in the cannabis industry, says that following the Election Day victories in Colorado and Washington, he’s hearing from “entrepreneurs who are just interested in the sector and want to put \$25,000 to \$50,000 to work, all the way up to billionaires and venture capital funds that are looking to make investments.” Dayton says now is a “really a unique opportunity for smaller businesses to make a play at it before the super-big multinationals get in on it.”



Drug Czar Makes Noise, Not Sense

Hey, heard the good news? The War on Drugs is over! Or at least it’s been declared not to exist.

Federal Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske spoke before a police gathering at the University of San Francisco in January. He was there

to hype the Obama administration’s new “21st-century” anti-narcotics strategy and somewhat ridiculously announced, “There is no War on Drugs,” because the emphasis now is supposedly on education and treatment. (Tell that to the some 750,000 people arrested for pot possession in 2011, according to recently released FBI statistics.)

Unfortunately, this allegedly fresh policy still includes the same old tired anti-medical marijuana rhetoric. According to Kerlikowske, acknowledging the medicinal benefits of pot “sends a terrible message” to the nation’s youth by creating the “perception” that it’s less harmful than tobacco.

But don’t let facts stand in the way of your BS, Gil: High school students are more likely to smoke pot than tobacco precisely because that “perception” is correct.

Kerlikowske also reached new depths of hypocrisy when he dismissed the legalization victories in Washington and Colorado as a “false choice” and asserted, referring to the Food and Drug Administration: “We have the world’s most renowned process to decide what is medicine and what should go in people’s bodies. And marijuana has never been through that process.”

While it’s certainly true that pot has never been tested by the FDA, it is, in fact, the most widely studied plant in history, one whose medical efficacy has been demonstrated time and time again. Even more outrageously, it’s the federal government’s own prohibitionist policies that have prevented pot from being studied by the FDA in the first place.

So what were you saying about “false choices,” Gil?



Harborside Reprieve

Harborside Health Center, the largest medical marijuana dispensary in the Bay Area, can remain in operation—at least for the time being—after a federal judge blocked its landlords from evicting the dispensary from its two locations in Oakland and San Jose, CA, where it serves over 100,000 patients.

Last July, the Feds filed a civil asset-forfeiture suit against the landlords, who filed suit in turn seeking to have Harborside evicted because it was engaged in “illegal activities.” In January, however, US Magistrate Judge Maria-Elena James thwarted this backdoor attempt by the federal government to shut the popular dispensary down, ruling that the Feds, not the landlords, are responsible for enforcing the Controlled Substances Act.



Mexico Mulls Legalization

Newly elected Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto recently told CNN that while he opposes legalizing marijuana, the vote to legalize recreational pot use in Colorado and Washington last year “could bring us to rethinking the strategy.” His comments are a breath of fresh air from the leaders of a country plagued with horrific drug violence: At least 55,000 people have been killed in Mexico since 2006 in the ongoing Drug War there.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, pot legalization is already being advocated by a number of prominent elected officials in Mexico. Fernando Belaunzaran of the PRD (Democratic Revolutionary Party) has introduced a national legalization bill. With an estimated 20 to 25 percent of all drug-cartel profits generated by pot sales, Belaunzaran is seeking to cut off that blood-stained source of revenue.

Governor Mario Anguiano Moreno has suggested that his state of Colima could hold its own legalization referendum. Also, before the successful ballot measures in Colorado and Washington, Mexico City mayor Miguel Ángel Mancera proposed organizing a national forum on pot legalization.

But not everyone is on board. In the newspaper *Reforma*, columnist and center-right scholar Sergio Aguayo termed the push for legal pot in the US a “slap in the face” for former Mexican president (and staunch drug warrior) Felipe Calderón—as if cannabis should remain criminalized simply to shore up the legacy of his disastrously shortsighted administration.

Attack of the Vending Machines!

Medbox, a Los Angeles-based company that pioneered the use of traditional vending machines as a means to distribute medical marijuana, plans on installing modified versions of its machines in Colorado and Washington to provide easy access to pot, which was recently legalized in both states for recreational use.

“All of our equipment is customized per state regulations, so

Colorado and Washington are going to have different ways people can operate them at a retail marijuana business,” Medbox founder Vincent Mehdizadeh said.

However, there is still one issue that prevents the vending machines from being accessed 24/7: “social intolerance,” according to Mehdizadeh.

Interestingly, Medbox sued a rival company that *was* offering 24/7 vending access. Mehdizadeh defended this action by insisting that “24-hour access hurts the image of our technology.” He maintains that Medbox is a conservative company trying to flourish in a progressive industry.

Good luck with that argument. As pot acceptance and the push for legalization increase across the US, 24/7 access to pot via vending

machines seems inevitable, regardless of how many of its competitors Medbox sues.



Schedule Error

In late January, the US Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit rejected a petition seeking to reschedule cannabis' status defined by the Controlled Substances Act, which lists pot as a Schedule I drug, laughably in the same category as heroin. A coalition of activist groups led by Americans for Safe Access (ASA) filed the rescheduling petition in federal appellate court after it was rejected by the DEA in 2011. A three-judge panel relied on the wisdom of the DEA in reaffirming pot's status: “A dangerous drug with no accepted medical use.” The task of rescheduling remains a cynical catch-22. The DEA won't accept the legitimacy of medical marijuana until the FDA approves cannabis for medicinal use, yet the DEA consistently blocks FDA pot research. In the hearing, ASA listed over 200 published, pro-cannabis studies as part of the rescheduling petition, but judges deferred to the DEA's view that those particular studies are somehow not “sufficient proof of medical efficacy itself.” The fight isn't over; ASA's Steph Sherer told the *Los Angeles Times* that the petition is going to the Supreme Court.

The Cartel Lie

File this one under “We told you so!” A federal official intimately involved in the War on Drugs recently admitted what *High Times* has been reporting for years: There is little, if any, evidence connecting ruthless Mexican drug cartels to outdoor cannabis cultivation on public lands in Northern California or anywhere else in America.

In a *Los Angeles Times* article, Tommy Lanier, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy's National Marijuana Initiative, acknowledged that

“based on our intelligence, which includes thousands of cell phone numbers and wiretaps, we haven't been able to connect anyone [arrested for growing] to a major cartel.”

Lanier went on to disclose that law enforcement may have misrepresented the true origin of pot growing in places like national parks because, in the past, Mexican nationals have been arrested tending “illegal” gardens. He also acknowledged that playing the cartel card helps boost law-enforcement budgets.

Dale Gieringer, director of

California NORML, insists: “We always felt the cartel association was phony. None of my contacts ever spoke of encountering a Mexican cartel—except for those who actually went to Mexico.”

Gieringer suspects that a cut-off in ONDCP funding was behind Lanier's comments. Or perhaps it's another sign that pot prohibition's days are numbered. “We hope the Feds realize that the war on marijuana creates crime, and that crime will decrease if marijuana is legal,” Gieringer says. “This is an encouraging glimmer of light among the powers that be.”

HIGHWIRE

Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*



Cabinet
minister
Guikine

West Africa: Narco-Terrorists Control Northern Mali?

Mali has been divided since April, when Islamist rebels seized the north—a vast stretch of the Sahara, including the old caravan city of Timbuktu. Harsh Taliban-style rule has been imposed, and ancient Sufi shrines recognized as UN World Heritage Sites have been destroyed by the rebels as “idolatry.” Some of the Islamist factions are in talks with the regime, which is none too stable. Others remain intransigent. On December 20, the UN Security Council approved military action to remove the rebels, and the French, along with a force of West African states is being prepared, have been waging a hard battle to push back the rebels.

The most intransigent faction, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa, was placed under sanctions by the Security Council as a front for Al Qaeda on December 6. The Security Council statement also charged: “The MUJAO’s leaders are known to be drug traffickers, involved in the drug trade in the Sahel.”

Malian cabinet minister Traore Roki-atou Guikine told the Security Council: “The daily suffering of the



Burmese poppy fields

Burma: Kachin tribesmen get bombed in opium war

The Burmese military on January 2 claimed responsibility for air strikes against Kachin rebel positions in the country’s north. Kachin territory is in northern Burma’s opium-growing heartland, and international officials are hyping a new poppy boom there—ironically as a consequence of recent successes against opium production in Afghanistan. Said Gary Lewis, Southeast Asia representative for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): “If the opium coming from Afghanistan drops by a third, then it could well increase by that much here.” Burma, which was long the world’s leading opium producer, was overtaken by Afghanistan in 1991.

occupied Malian people is well-known: There are floggings, amputation of limbs, summary executions, children forced to become soldiers, rapes, stoning, looting and the destruction of cultural and historic sites.”

Ironically, however, the worst destruction of cultural and historic sites—the Sufi shrines of Timbuktu—has occurred at the hands not of MUJAO but Ansar Dine, a rival faction that controls the historic city. Both groups seem equally guilty of the other abuses. And yet Ansar Dine—far from being sanctioned by the UN or accused of drug trafficking—is the principal faction in the rebels’ negotiations with the government.

Bolivia: Progress Seen in Coca Policy

The New York Times gave a big wet kiss to Bolivia on December 26, noting that its policies have brought about a decrease in coca production in the



Fresh coca leaves

country—despite being dissed by Washington as too tolerant.

The total area planted with coca in Bolivia dropped by 13 percent in 2011, according to reports by both the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Bolivia stepped up efforts to eradicate unauthorized coca plantings and reported an increase in seizures of cocaine and cocaine base—even as the government of Bolivian president Evo Morales expanded the areas where coca can be grown legally.

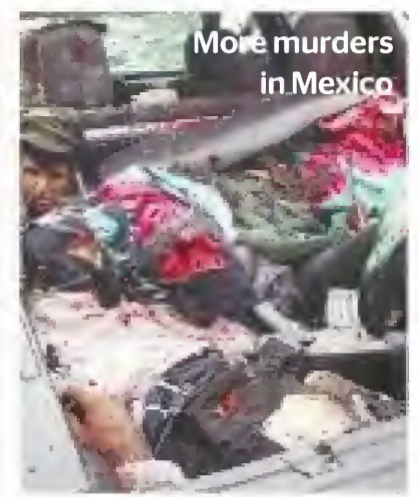
In the coca-growing region of Chapare, some 43,000 farmers have registered to grow coca under

state regulation. If the registered growers exceed the maximum amount of coca allowed, soldiers are called in to remove the extra plants, and repeat offenders can have their whole crop destroyed.

“The results speak for themselves,” government minister Carlos Romero told the *Times*. “We have demonstrated that you can objectively do eradication work without violating human rights, without polemicizing the topic and with clear results.”

But Larry Memmott, the chargé d’affaires for the US embassy in La Paz, was not too enthused: “Our perspective is they’ve made real advances, and they’re a long way from where we’d like to see them. In terms of law enforcement, a lot remains to be done.”

Bolivia moved to restore diplomatic ties with the United States in 2011 after booting the US ambassador three years earlier, but still declines to cooperate with the DEA.



More murders
in Mexico

Mexico: Bloody Christmas in Michoacán, Sinaloa

At least 13 people, including seven police officers, were killed and eight others wounded in three shootouts involving police and “armed commandos” on the border of Jalisco and Michoacán states in west-central Mexico on December 23. The first incident occurred when Michoacán state police responded to a report of a traffic accident in Briseñas village and were ambushed. Similar gunfights followed shortly in the nearby municipalities of Quitúpan and Ayotlán. The next day, bullets flew in the central plaza of Yurécuaro, Michoacán, in what authorities called a shootout between the Knights Templar and Jalisco Nueva Generación cartels, which left an unarmed bystander dead. Also on Christmas Eve, a group of men armed with assault weapons stormed the town of El Platanar de Los Ontiveros in the mountains of northwestern Sinaloa state, killing nine people and dumping their bodies on a sports field. Authorities called that one a fight between the Sinaloa Cartel and Los Zetas. ✨

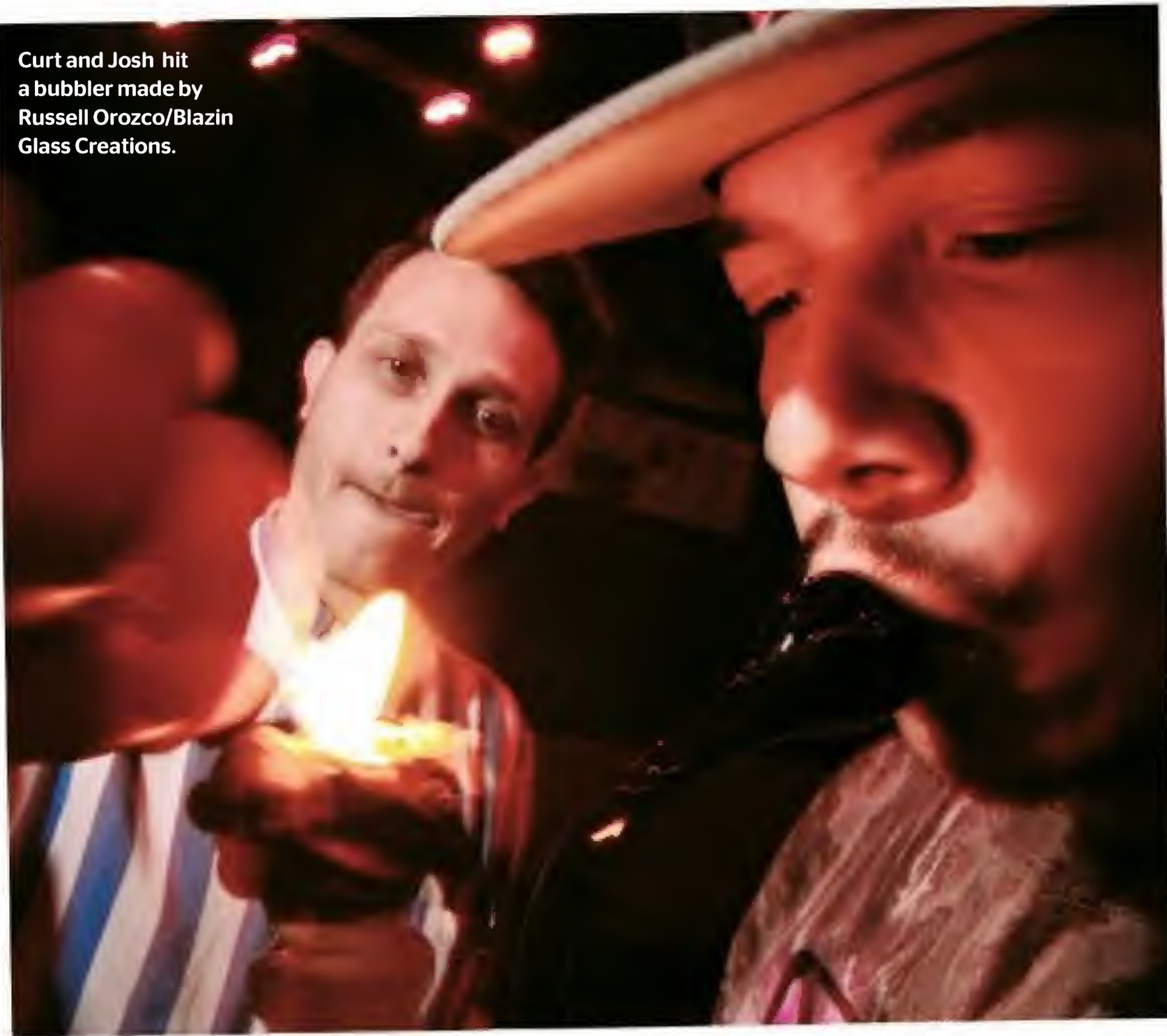
For more updates, visit Bill Weinberg’s websites, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.



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Curt and Josh hit a bubbler made by Russell Orozco/Blazin Glass Creations.



“We have Cali weed; we have indoor stuff that comes from Michigan now ... everything comes through Chicago.”

cannabis, according to Young: “It’s really helped my marriage. My wife and I are both smokers, and it’s really hard to fight about the dishes when you’re smoking and chilling out and not talking to each other.”

Cameruci in particular harbors a sentimental preference for the infamous low-grade “Chi-town Brown” strains he grew up smoking, and he feels the diversity of Chicago’s music is matched by its cannabis market. “We’re influenced by Dirty South hip-hop on the radio; we’re influenced by house music, Detroit techno—everything is there. And I think that’s the same with the weed,” he says. “We have Cali weed; we have indoor stuff that comes from Michigan now. *Everything* comes through Chicago.”

In the meantime, the pair continue to tour, most recently with Mad Decent’s Dillon Francis, and to release a stream of mixtapes off their Tumblr and Soundcloud pages. Young feels that it’s only really now that the duo have gotten the hang of producing together. Before, “neither of us knew exactly how to complement each other’s styles. And I feel that by 2011, we learned how to do that,” he says. “Being in a group for almost eight years and clicking after that amount of time is just awesome. It’s an amazing feeling.” ✨

Mix Masters

Flosstradamus’ new EDM joint is rolled from many different strains. *By Justin Hampton*

In the midst of 2012’s Summer of EDM, Flosstradamus can rest easy. See, alongside prescient DJ/producer/promoter crews like NYC’s Misshapes, LA’s Dim Mak and Philadelphia’s Hollertronix, Josh “J2K” Young and Curt “Autobot” Cameruci possessed the foresight of their sort-of namesake by crossbreeding EDM, indie rock and hip-hop at their parties, during a time in the early 2000s when single-genre nights were the rule. Now that hip-hop celebrities like Nicki Minaj and Three Six Mafia are working with David Guetta and Tiësto, one can’t blame Flosstradamus for feeling vindicated. But considering the ups and downs they’ve had, they’re far more grateful than that.

“Ever since the jump, our whole mentality is that everyone’s welcome, and we want to play everything and we want everyone to be there and we don’t want it to be exclusive and we’re not trying to be too cool for school,” says Young. “We are, at our core, two Midwestern dudes who grew up in lower-middle-class families. We have respect for everybody, and if you’re cool, we fuck with you, and if you’re not, then fuck you. So that’s our only principle.”

Initially grinding out big-room, trance-inflected Dirty South mashups, Flosstradamus have since evolved into a more original production unit, marrying the slow-burning grind of post-Gucci Mane trap-rap with melodic

top lines borrowed from the EDM main floor, while throwing in a bit of experimentation with styles like juke—a hyperactive, regional Chicago dance-music style—for good measure. (Josh credits his sibling, the eclectic urban diva/Kanye West collaborator Kid Sister, for the initial exposure to juke that led to the group’s *Jubilation* EP on Fool’s Gold.)

On 4/20, the crew also digitally released their smokers’ anthem, “Rollup,” as a heads-up for the heads. One of the little-celebrated benefits of



The Flosstradamus Effect

- Their latest “Banned” mixtape episode garnered more than 80,000 downloads.
- Built their rep with their “Get Outta the Hood” parties.
- Fucks with Dillon Francis, the Dirty South, roller-skates, Danny Brown and the Party Squad.

The Art of Partying

Municipal Waste mix punk, metal and a lot of herb. *By Chris Parker*

The 2010 “Big Four” tour featuring thrash trailblazers Metallica, Slayer, Megadeth and Anthrax signaled that the original punk/metal hybrid had returned to prominence. But Municipal Waste have been on that tip since the dawn of the new millennium, building the momentum that’s made them the preeminent old-school throwback act.

Like their “Big Four” heroes, the Richmond, VA, quartet combine racing skate-punk rhythms, slashing thrash riffs, a chunky, charging bottom end and clean, decipherable vocals. Their lyrics range from social critiques like the badass-slamming “Authority Complex” to gory set pieces like “Crushing Chest Wound” and humorous asides like “Covered in Sick/The Barfer,” all off 2012’s *The Fatal Feast*.

Though the band dates back to 2001, it was the addition of a new rhythm section—bassist Phil “Landphil” Hall and former *Burnt by the Sun* drummer Dave Witte—that allowed them to really take off. That ascent began with their second album, 2005’s *Hazardous Mutation*, and continued with 2007’s breakthrough *The Art of Partying*.

“We were already working on our third record when all the thrash-revival shit started going on. We were like, ‘What? We’ve already been there! You guys are a little bit late on that,’” says frontman Tony Foresta. “I think *Hazardous Mutation* took a while to circulate; then, by the time it did, we were already well onto the third record. Once that word spread, a million other bands started popping up.”

Though many of their songs are fairly beer-centric, particularly on *The Art of Partying* (“Beer Pressure,” “Born to Party,” “The Inebriator”),



The Wasteland ain't just for teenagers.

“I was selling weed out of my parents’ house and acid in the bathroom at school.”

Municipal Waste have the heshers well represented with Hall and guitarist Ryan Waste. (Six years ago, Hall and his twin brother, Josh, even started a band called Cannabis Corpse, a humorous riff on death-metal pioneers Cannibal Corpse.) “It was just weed puns on Cannibal Corpse songs, and it’s got this crazy artwork,” Land says of the group’s recorded output, which includes songs like “When Weed Replaces Life,” “Force Fed Shitty Grass” and “Mummified in Bongwater.”

Municipal Waste typically avoid taking paraphernalia on tour with them for fear of the fuzz. Instead of using pipes or bongos, they’ll typically core out an apple, bringing new meaning to the phrase “Golden Delicious.” However, they did make an exception to this general rule when Silver Surfer gifted them with a vaporizer.

“We were blown away, because it looks so futuristic,” Hall says. “Once I started using it, it was like, ‘Whoa, this is great!’”

But it’s guitarist Ryan Waste who boasts the longest weed history of anyone in the

band, dating back to when he was 12 and rebelling against his strict parents with a headlong dive into weed and hallucinogens.

“The heshier kid, the long-haired metalhead that your parents said to stay away from—those were the people I sought out,” Waste recalls. “By the time I was a freshman in high school, I was selling weed out of my parents’ house and acid in the bathroom at school. I would bring an eighth of weed in my sock, and I’d be hustling kids while on acid at the same time.”

His befuddled folks tried everything, including tapping their phone (evilly using one of his metal comp tapes!) and confiscating Ryan’s weed. Apparently, it didn’t work.

“Fifteen, 20 years later, I have a different relationship with my parents,” Waste says. “They’re all cool, and I’m talking to them—I was like, ‘Whatever happened to those tapes?’ My dad straight-up grabs a key to open a drawer and pulls out two cassettes.” Waste bursts out laughing, explaining how funny it was to hear his 14-year-old self bumming rides and scamming chicks on the phone.

But that wasn’t all his dad had kept from those days. “He says, ‘If I’m going to give you the tapes, I might as well give you this.’ Then he pulls out an eighth of weed labeled ‘September 1993,’” Waste says. “It’s tasteless and scentless, but it still gets you high. It’s crazy—it’s Virginia Beach dirt weed. I have a ritual thing I’ll do: When I’m home from tour and I’m having some buddies into town that are big pot-heads, I’ll be: ‘You guys want to smoke some vintage?’ Then I tell them that story and everyone loses their mind.” 🌿

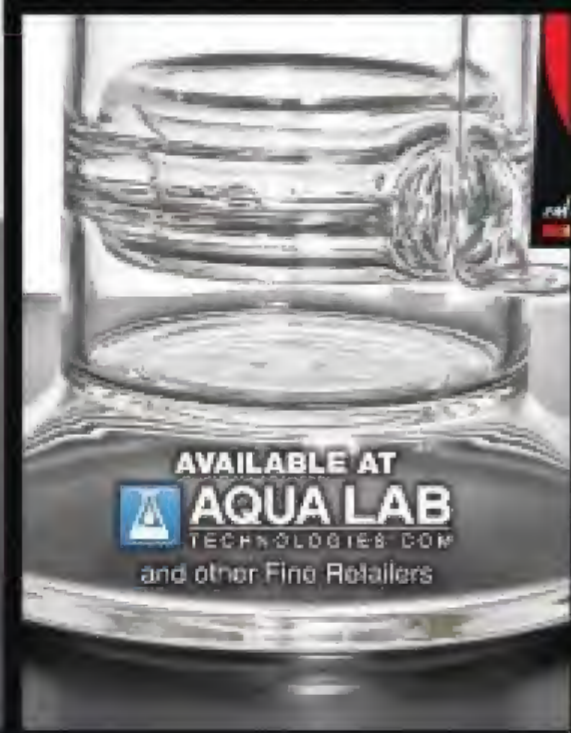


Wastoid Factoids

- Bassist Landphil is a big fan of old-school WWE wrestling and got lessons from MMA fighter Josh Barnett.
- Recently starred in a Vans commercial.
- Good friends with fellow Richmond residents GWAR, for whom they’ve opened on several tours.



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127” and “The Currents of Space” evoking a darkness that’s fantastical, foreboding and all points in between. Interwoven with recordings of rain, “Apocalypse Troll” turns Seals & Crofts’ “Summer Breeze” into a monolithic headbanger, while “Sand Into Rain” is pastoral psych-folk right out of the Fairport Convention songbook.

But when

Dope Springs Eternal

Eternal Tapestry like to play with space and time. *By John Payne*

Portland five-piece Eternal Tapestry are a collective of like-minded psychedelic souls who don’t come off all that “psychedelic” in the normal sense of the word. Tapping into the more experimental side of the European progressive/art rock of the ’70s, the band broadens the psych palette to surprising new degrees on their latest album, *A World Out of Time*.

Recorded directly to tape using a bunch of old Ampex pre-amps, a gazillion FX pedals and sundry vintage guitars, organs, drums and saxes, *A World Out of Time* is the prolific band’s second release in the last year, and one in which they’ve focused their process of edited spontaneity into forcefully rocking and supremely evocative soundscapes. So whether or not it qualifies as psych-rock in the accepted sense of the term is not that big a deal to them.

“We’re pretty open-ended people with different tastes,”

says guitarist Nick Bindeman, “and we like to think it doesn’t matter. But everyone wants to know: ‘What kind of band are you in?’ So the stock response is: ‘We’re a psych-rock band.’”

When it comes to cannabis, Eternal Tapestry count themselves as major fans of the newer hybrids—Woody Kush, Blackberry Kush, Blue Dream.

These days, however, the term connotes heavy stoner rock, which is not something Eternal Tapestry aspire to in particular. “When people ask what we sound like,” drummer Jed Bindeman chimes in, “I’d rather just say we sound like Algarnas Tradgard and other bands that no one’s heard of—’cause then

someone *still* doesn’t know what we’re talking about, and that ambiguity is what we’ve always fed off of anyway.”

For the record, Eternal Tapestry *have* dug heavily into neo-psych/art-rock bands like Faust, Neu! and the aforementioned Swedish progressives, Algarnas Tradgard. The result has been an often droningly transcendental, epic sound that’s not just a pastiche of old influences but a radical melting-down in which the music remains reminiscent of the hoary past but sounds strangely new as well.

This process brings a lot of variety to the narrative flow of the album, with tracks like the opening “When I Was in Your Mind,” “Planetoid

it comes to cannabis, Eternal Tapestry count themselves as major fans of the newer hybrids—Woody Kush, Blackberry Kush, Blue Dream. For live performances and in the studio, they love the way weed helps them both bring things into focus and space deeper and deeper out.

“It’s really nice right before you play,” says Nick. “You’re at the show, you set up all your pedals, then right before you step onstage, just have a little puff. Then you go out there with a fresh perspective.”

“It’s not the backbone of the band,” adds Jed, “but it’s definitely been a muse of ours. We call it Improv Helper [*laughs*]. For recording, it’s great because it can ease you into being more patient. And it’s a nice tool for mixing—once you’ve got a nice mix going and you want fresh ears, smoking pot can really open it up.” ✨



THE WEE WEED HOURS

“We all like smoking weed, and most every show we’ll have a puff before we play. We don’t depend on it, but it’s a good thing, and it’s definitely a big part of a long recording session. If you’ve been listening to something for way too long, weed can open it up.” —Nick

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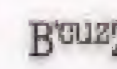
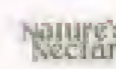
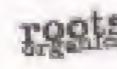
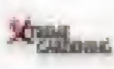
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Inside Africa's narco industry

From Colombia to Cape Town

Africa is a growing hot spot in the War on Drugs.

For those who've been wondering how much truth lies behind the media sensationalism about global drug cartels seizing on Africa as their new theater of operations, *Africa and the War on Drugs* clears the air in a welcome way.

The authors depict a strategy by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to hype the threat and replicate the usual hardline policies throughout the African continent. Ironically, drug trafficking has been on the rise in Africa—precisely as a result of the Drug War's "successes" in Latin America. As the old established cartels and their smuggling routes were broken up, more fragmented networks have sought new routes and markets in their place.

But Africa has been a market and transit point for psychoactive substances for centuries. Cannabis was introduced to East Africa by Arab traders over 500 years ago and had spread across the continent by the time the Europeans arrived. Cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine have fueled waves of gang-

land violence in both Kenya and South Africa. This makes good propaganda for the UNODC's campaign. But contrary to media reports on the new African drug "barons," the trade is still dominated by small-scale freelancers, not cartels.

With its notoriously corrupt authorities, tiny Guinea-Bissau is often demonized as Africa's



Africa and the War on Drugs

by Neil Carrier and Gernot Klantschnig (Zed Books)

first "narco-state," while Nigeria has gone furthest toward adopting the harsh enforcement model favored by the UNODC and the United States. But there have been some encouraging signs of movement in the other direction as well: A cannabis decriminalization bill was introduced in Rwanda in 2010, and such proposals are at least widely discussed in South Africa.

The authors also warn that cannabis decrim could harm rural livelihoods, thanks to prohibition's effect in jacking up prices. But they still make an excellent case that Africa may have more to fear from the War on Drugs than from illegal drugs themselves. *Bill Weinberg*

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds
Push the Sky Away
(Bad Seed Ltd.)

Nick Cave's soulful baritone and keenly crafted songs suggest a cross between Neil Diamond and Leonard Cohen. Throughout his long career, Cave has vacillated between moody beauty and clamorous rock, electing mostly the former on his latest opus (though several distortion-drenched

passages stand out). *Push the Sky Away* bursts with dreamy textures, ranging from echoing Pink Floyd-ish swirl to late-night, slow-burn thrum, and features an expressionistic song cycle set in a downtrodden seaside neighborhood rife with prostitution and despair.

Chris Parker



California X
California X
(Don Giovanni)

West Massachusetts band close their eyes, turn up the fuzz and open their hearts to cannibal dreams of the state that gave them their name. The squalling guitars on the eight setting-sun-soaked tracks herein conjure the Smashing Pumpkins' *Siamese Dream*, yearning and first-listen

nostalgic, especially on "Pond Rot." The vocals are buried and blurry, recalling fellow ladybug-staters Dino-saur Jr., but have the bored, youthful affect and appealingly sloppy multitracking of modern jangle wizards like Surfer Blood or Smith Westerns. Sweetly painful, in a good way. *Polly Watson*



Sonny Smith
100 Records, Vol. 3
(Polyvinyl)

This chameleonic Bay Area singer-songwriter-conceptualist created 100 fictitious bands and then wrote hit tunes for each. Sonny packs 10 albums' worth of ideas into the song titles and band names alone ("A Steady Stream of Love" by Little Antoine & the Sparrows, "Space

Travel Is in My Blood" by Earth Girl Helen Brown), and the songs' almost eerie authenticity—from the hissy mono rocker "Life Ain't Clear" by Danny Dusk & the Twilights to "Fruitcakes" by garage punks Zig Speck & the Specktones—howls like a blast from the dusty old past. *John Payne*

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Cannabis Chassidis: The Ancient and Emerging Torah of Drugs
by Yoseph Leib
(Autonomedia)

Here's an amusing 280-page rant celebrating the convergence of stoner culture with the mystical and ecstasy-seeking tradition in Orthodox Judaism—represented by Kabbalah and the Hasidic subculture. Leib draws inspiration from the *tzaddiks*, the holy men of the early Hasidic movement,

who were thought to possess spiritual powers—and who were hitting the *lulke* (water pipe) pretty often in his account. But whether or not cannabis use is really this deeply rooted in Jewish history, the cultural convergence that Leib manifests is creating its own mythology and doctrine. *Bill Weinberg*

DVD RECOMMENDATIONS



Circle Jerks
My Career as a Jerk
Directed by Dave Markey
(MDV)

The Circle Jerks released their classic *Group Sex* back in 1981 and were never able to top it—despite the nearly 30-year career that followed. Singer Keith Morris is a born storyteller, and it's fascinating to hear the funny and depressing details of a band that stuck it out for so long with no

chance of receiving big money or chart success. Check out the live footage from their second lineup with Chuck Biscuits, who beats the drums like he'd been cloned from genetic material stolen from Keith Moon, John Bonham and the Tasmanian Devil.

Chris Simonek

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MUNCHIES

Mystical Disco Fries

Putting the “pot” in cheese-and-gravy-covered potatoes.

In homage to the grand opening of New Jersey’s first medical marijuana dispensary, the

Greenleaf Compassion Center, this month’s recipe is for that Jersey diner classic, disco fries. If you’ve ever suffered through a serious illness, you already know that eating healthy, nutrient-rich food certainly aids in the healing process—but as any true Jerseyan will attest, disco fries are a special kind of cure all their own. From heartaches to hangovers, this particular dish (also dubbed “Elvis fries”) has been comforting, delighting and uniting people since the early ’70s, when true boogie nights required another hot delicious mess—diner-style—before “freestyling” or “partnering up” back home. *Mary Ought Six*

MYSTICAL DISCO FRIES

3 large red potatoes
Oil, for frying
1 small sweet onion
Salt and pepper to taste
Garlic powder to taste
1½ cups shredded mozzarella
2 tbsp. butter
⅛ oz. ground cannabis
¼ cup onion, finely minced
1 cup beef broth
2 tbsp. water
1 tbsp. cornstarch

Brown gravy

(make during the wait time in the disco fries preparation below): Melt the butter in a double boiler over low heat and stir in the ground cannabis until fully coated. Continue to stir occasionally for 30 minutes, being careful not to burn the greens.

Strain the cannabutter through cheesecloth or a fine strainer into a medium saucepan and turn heat to low; discard the green matter. Add minced onion. Sauté over extremely low heat until the onions are tender. Add the beef broth and bring up to a low simmer.

Combine the water and cornstarch in a small bowl, then stir into the broth; continue simmering and stirring until thickened, around a minute.

Disco fries

Add enough water to cover the potatoes by at least an inch in a large pot; boil the potatoes with the skins on until almost

done. Allow to cool, then cut the potatoes into strips lengthwise (around a quarter- to a half-inch thickness and width).

In a large wok or fryer, heat the oil to 350°F. Pan-fry the potatoes for five to six minutes or until they’re limp. Remove with a slotted spoon, then place on paper towels and allow to drain. Let sit for one to two hours at room temperature (and make your brown gravy now).

Next, preheat the oven to 350°F. Slice the onion into half-inch wedges right before you’re ready to fry, then get your bake on. Place the potatoes and onions into oil heated to 375°F for three to five minutes, or until golden brown with darkened edges. Remove the fries from the oil, drain on paper towels and, while still hot, season with salt, pepper and garlic powder.

Place a layer of fries in a wide, shallow casserole dish (or line a baking sheet with foil) and sprinkle with the shredded mozzarella cheese; continue layering the fries and cheese until they’re all in.

Bake in the preheated oven for about four minutes. Remove from the oven, then let sit for a minute so as not to lose any of the gravy’s herbal essences to cheesy fries that are hot as lava. But don’t wait too long: Get those gooey taters onto four plates, top with medicated gravy and enjoy. *Stones 4.*

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420



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GSPOT



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Mother



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Medical Strain of the Month



Cherry Lopez was bred by crossing Jurassic Haze back to Adonai Kush.

Cherry Lopez

When it came time to set up an interview and photo shoot with actor and comedian Nick Offerman, the man behind the mustachioed mystique of *Parks and Recreation's* Ron Swanson (see page 90), I felt it important to source some truly top-level cannabis for the occasion. After all, Offerman not only makes millions of people laugh on television and the silver screen, but as the owner and operator of Offerman Woodshop in Los Angeles, he's also a highly skilled craftsman who knows all about artisanal methods and small-batch quality. So, determined to make sure that the "props" used to fill his handmade pipe and stash box lived up to the highest cultivation standards, I sought a master craftsman's approach to medical marijuana via downtown LA's own Buds and Roses dispensary.

At the 2012 *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup in Los Angeles, Buds and Roses placed in all five major categories (*Sativa*, *Indica*, Hybrid, Concentrate and Edible), firmly establishing their reputation as one of Southern California's leading medical marijuana dispensaries. Buds and Roses is also the exclusive home of the Kushman Genetix line of strains produced by former *HT* cultivation editor Kyle Kushman.

By optimizing his eco-friendly growing method, which utilizes plant-based nutrients, Kushman has built his own enviable reputation for both his genetics and his herb, including a second-place finish for hybrids with his Stardawg strain at the 2011 Medical Cannabis Cup in San Francisco.

For the photo shoot, I obtained a relatively new Kushman Genetix strain called Cherry Lopez, a 60- to 65-day *indica*-dominant plant bred by crossing Jurassic Haze back to Adonai Kush. Jurassic Haze was the first-generation cross of the Adonai and Kushman's signature Strawberry Cough variety, while Adonai Kush is a cross of Silvertooth (Super Silver Haze x Sweet Tooth #3) and a very rare Russian Kush.

Thanks to his "veganic" growing method, which allows for a full expression of Cherry's Lopez's flavor and taste, the first toke gushes with fruity notes, followed by a pleasantly musky undertone. Boasting a heavy *indica* lineage, the strain initially comes on warm and fuzzy, while higher doses bring on the *sativa* rush of its Strawberry Cough lineage.

Independent lab results put Cherry Lopez at 21 percent THC and 1.5 percent CBD—highly impressive numbers in both categories. *David Bienenstock*

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tapdatashtray.com

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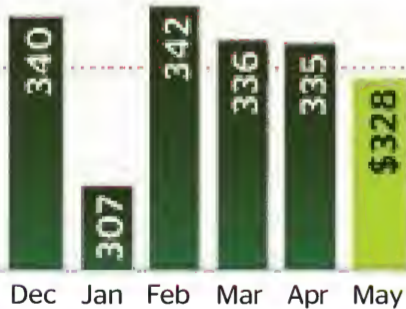
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		LA Confidential	450
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	San Francisco	Tahoe OG	320
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		Jack Herer	300
Delaware	Newark Pike Creek	NYC Diesel	370
		Kandy Kush	390
		Blue Dream	370
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		Kush	450
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Maine	Augusta	Cheese	250
		East Coast Sour Diesel	300
Maryland	Baltimore	Sweet God Bud	400
Massachusetts	Boston	Sour Diesel	375
Michigan	Detroit	Critical +	200
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Missouri	St. Louis	White Rhino	300
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New Jersey	North Bergen Teaneck	The Purps	300
		Green Crack	350
New York	New York	Sour OG Kush	280
		Skywalker	420
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		Skywalker Kush	420
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Oregon	Gresham	Lemon OG	250
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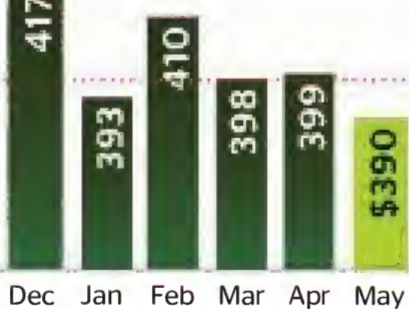
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While the Kind Index finished May below its previous month's average, the Mids Index experienced an uptick in price per ounce (+\$11). As a result, the US Price Index closed the month within \$2 of its year-to-date average (\$5 below its previous month's average).

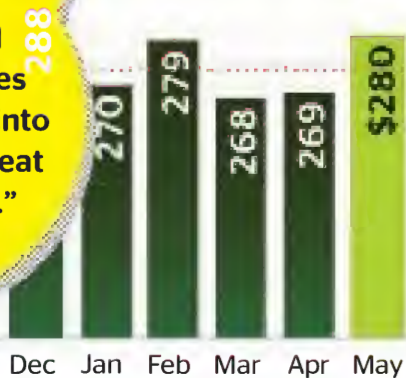
US Price Index
 YTD Average: \$330



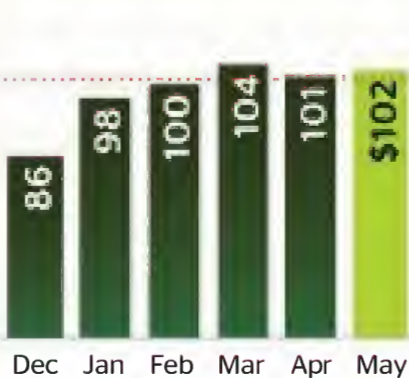
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Mids Index
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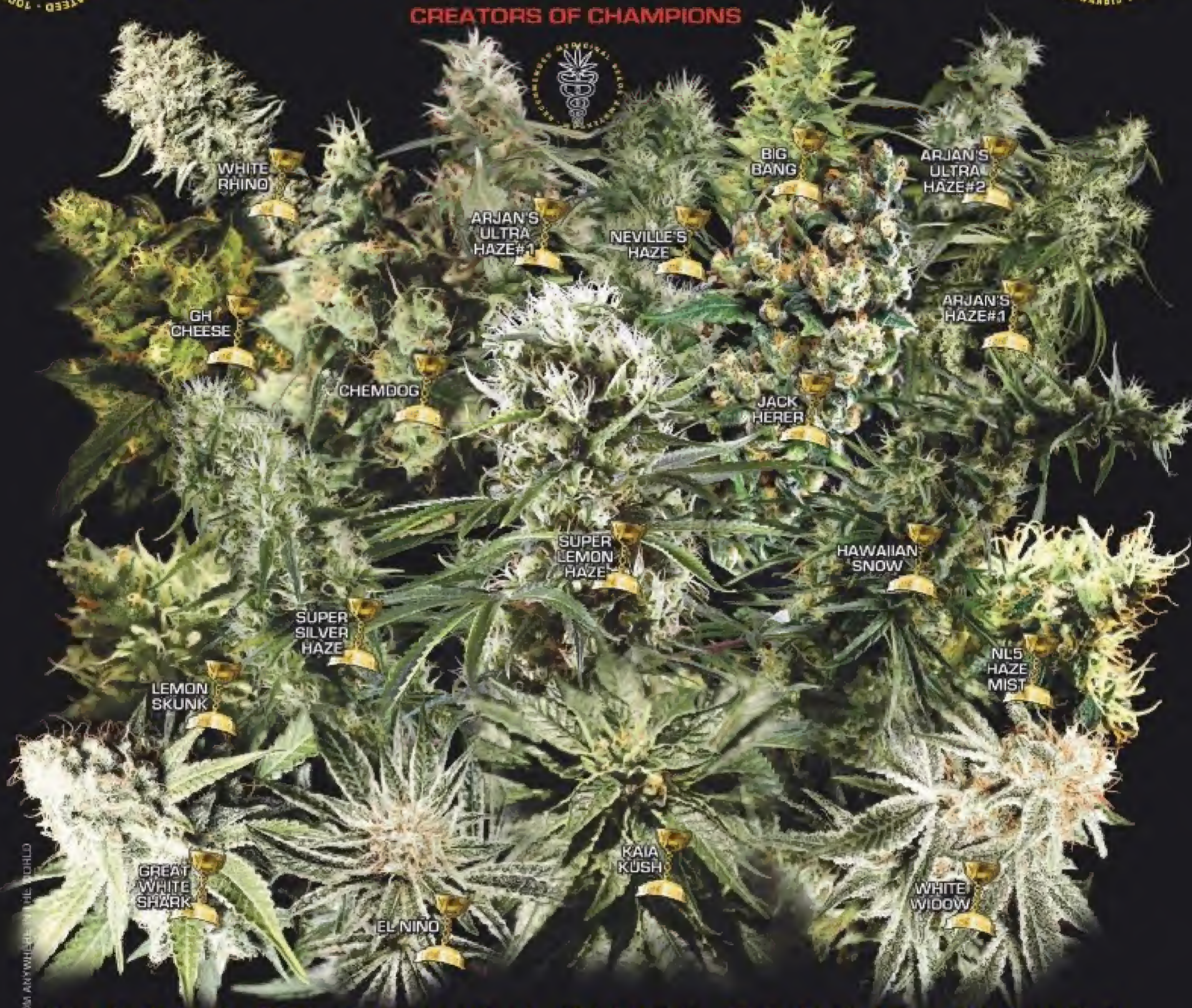


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Spring Pot Planting Guide



This seedling will one day be a mighty marijuana tree.

Heavy yields of big buds in the fall are the result of proper planning and planting in the spring. Danny Danko breaks down the basics of mastering these early stages in order to harvest more down the road.

Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love.

—Sitting Bull



Everyday watering is essential to successful outdoor harvests. Below: a germinated seed.

Start Early Now, Harvest Heavy Later

As winter fades away, our thoughts turn to renewal. Spring always brings with it hopes for the future: The ground begins to warm, and tender young shoots emerge from the soil. But these plants are perennials, destined to grow out year after year without toil, while our beloved cannabis is an annual and must be planted each spring in order to grow bigger throughout its vegetative stage in the summer and then enter its flowering stage in the fall.

The best way to ensure bigger plants, and thus greater harvests, is to plant seedlings or clones indoors under lights during the winter, before they can survive outdoors. This means planning ahead and creating a vegetative space attuned to healthy, happy pot plants. You'll need a warm (over 70°F) and humid (around 50 percent relative humidity) space, clean and well lit.

We highly recommend using metal halide (MH) lights for the strongest growth and best results during the vegetative stage. The wattage you use will depend on the size of your space, but a good rule of thumb is that a 2' x 2' space can be covered by a 250-watt bulb and



reflector, while a 3' x 3' space would need 400 watts and a 4' x 4' space or larger can handle a 1,000-watt system. High-pressure sodium (HPS) lamps, light-emitting diode (LED) technology or fluorescents will work for this purpose as well, but the MH spectrum is ideal for vegetative growth and will keep internodes short and plants bushy.

The biggest outdoor plants start their lives indoors as early as December and, by the time they go outside after the threat of frost has receded (which varies depending on where you live), they're three feet tall or bigger, with thick stalks and many branches. This is the only way to achieve the massive 10-pound monsters you see in the photos.

Planting Seeds

There are several ways to properly germinate seeds. Some people place them between two wet paper towels and wait until they start popping open before gently putting them into the growing medium. The important thing to remember when using this technique is not to let the emerging taproot get too long before doing this (and also to always place the seedling into the medium with the taproot pointing down).

The easiest and most fail-safe way to sow seeds is directly into your medium of choice. Poke a hole in your moistened soil mix (or coco, rockwool cube, etc.) and drop the seed in about one-quarter to half an inch deep. Cover the seed with mix, keep the area moist and warm, and within a couple of days, you should see a tiny green shoot emerging from the soil. Immediately place it under adequate grow lighting—preferably a high-intensity discharge (HID) light—and your seedling will stay strong without stretching.

Plants grown from seeds tend to grow more vigorously than those grown from clones. The hybrid vigor particular to seeds from the F1 (or first filial) generation creates monster bushes that grow rapidly as long as they receive plenty of fertilizer and light. Many outdoor growers prefer to start from seed for this reason.

Rooting Clones

The best way to ensure uniform growth (important for indoor growers) and strain consistency is to root clones taken from mother plants and then grow them out. Clones are pieces that have been cut from plants in order to induce new roots to shoot out from the cut ends. The cuttings thus become smaller exact replicas of the mother plant, maintaining the sex (female), strain genetics and growth characteristics. This is how commercial

These vegetating plants are ready to begin the topping, pruning and training process.



growers end up with uniform plants that perform the same, growing a level canopy and taking advantage of all available light without shading each other out.

Clones are cut from vegetating mother plants using a sharp blade. Cut on a diagonal just below a node, leaving at least three sets of intact leaves on the cutting you've taken. Remove the lowest leaves (the ones coming out of the node that you cut below) and immediately place the cut end into your moistened medium of choice.

Temperature and humidity are very important factors for inducing roots to grow from the cut ends, so use a plastic tray with a heat mat underneath and a clear plastic dome over it for the best results. Within a week or so, you should see roots emerging from the bottom of your plugs or cubes and new growth from the plant tips. You are now ready to transplant your rooted clone into the growing medium and begin the all-important vegetative stage.

Maintaining Mother Plants

In order to get healthy clones, you must have healthy mother plants. These are female plants in their vegetative stage with green leaves and new shoots forming constantly. Mother plants should preferably be kept under MH lights, but compact fluorescents will work in a pinch.

The best way to acquire a mother plant is to grow one out from seed. But the only way to determine the sex of the plant without flowering it (unless it's grown from feminized seeds) is to root a cutting from the plant and then flower out the clone. In this scenario, the mother plant remains under 18 to 20 hours of light per day, while the rooted clone is placed in a separate flowering area under a 12-hours-on/12-hours-off light schedule.

Within two weeks or so, you'll see signs of sex on the clone, but it's best to continue flowering it out completely in order to ensure that it's not a hermaphrodite. Any signs of male genitalia on your flowering clone mean you must get rid of the corresponding mother plant or risk seeding your crops. Male flowers are easy to spot: They look like tiny yellow bananas sticking out from the buds.

If the clone is female, you'll know the corresponding mother plant is female as well. At the same time, since the mother plant itself hasn't been flowered, this means the plant is stress free, since its light schedule has never been interrupted. Mother plants grown from



already flowered and then reversed plants tend to produce stressed-out cuttings, while mother plants that have stayed in their vegetative stage give off only strong, healthy clones.

Feed mother plants a mild vegetative nutrient solution and always monitor them for overfeeding. Because they live much longer lives, mother plants are at greater risk of deficiencies, nutrient overloads and pH imbalances. Give them plain pH-balanced water between feedings and you'll find that they stay much healthier and happier.

The Vegetative Stage

After a seedling or rooted clone has begun to form its first few sets of new leaves, it enters the vegetative stage of growth, when more leaves form and new shoots become branches. Care must be taken to provide the plants with a nutrient solution high in nitrogen, since this is the macronutrient that assists in the formation of green foliage.

On the N-P-K scale, the nitrogen (N) level is given first, followed by potassium (P) and phosphorus (K). During the vegetative stage, use a fertilizer with a high number at the beginning of the N-P-K ratio listed on the package or bottle (e.g., 5-1-1). Healthy green leaves and new growth are signs that the nitrogen levels are good, but yellow leaves point to a deficiency. Conversely, burned leaf tips indicate an overabundance of nitrogen and other nutrients, so scale back on the feedings and flush your plants with plain water if you see the leaf tips start to get crispy.

Keep in mind that the larger the hole in which your plant is growing, the bigger the plant will eventually be. If you're growing in containers, use nothing smaller than five-gallon pots in order to yield plants that are decently sized. Larger pots, such as 35-gallon tubs, are ideal both indoors and out if you plan to have a vegetative stage lasting longer than a month. (Outside, this period is determined by the sun, but indoors, you can control when the flowering stage is triggered by cutting back the light to 12 hours on/12 hours off.)

Root systems with plenty of room to flourish produce much larger plants than root-bound ones. Outdoors, you can dig out a 3' x 3' hole and be sure to dig deep as well. Fill the hole with store-bought

From top: Cut clones just below the third node or higher; rooted cuttings are ready to transplant; trays of clones await bigger containers.

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Pruning

The vegetative stage is the time for pruning in order to achieve more branches and bigger plants. Once a plant has three or more nodes, it's time to start the pruning process. It can be as simple as trimming the tops off growing shoots in order to increase the amount of future branches, but there are several different ways to prune selectively.

Some growers train the branches by weighing or tying them down. This increases the surface area that the light can reach and turns secondary branches into main tops. Bushier plants produce much more pot than Christmas-tree-style plants with one main cola.

A sinker (such as those used in fishing) works great to weigh down a main branch without having to cut it. Once the main branch sags below the lower branches, the plant signals those branches that they are no longer subordinate to a main top and can each become a dominant branch—thus raising your future harvests significantly.

Smart growers introduce a trellising system during the vegetative stage in order to spread their plants' branches wide. There are many different types of trellis, from chicken wire to ropes, but what they all have in common is spreading the canopy. Branches tucked underneath a horizontal trellis will produce many more bud sites than branches growing upward, so be sure to use one form of trellis or another to get the most out of each plant.

Foliar Feeding

The early stages of growth are also the best time for foliar feeding—spraying the leaves of your plants with water or a mild nutrient solution such as aerated compost tea or liquid kelp. Plants can absorb trace elements directly through their stomata, making foliar feeding a great way to get those elements where they are needed.

Foliar feeding is best done in the morning, before the sun reaches its highest point, to avoid burning the leaves or



Pruned plants produce more bud sites. Inset: A trellis system keeps plants standing tall.

branches; in the middle of the day, the hot sun and bright light can also force the stomata to close up. You should also avoid spraying close to nighttime or the start of the dark cycle, because the liquid won't have time to be absorbed and will linger on the leaves, creating the perfect situation for mold to develop.

Foliar feeding has the added benefit of cleaning the leaves of any dust that could be hindering their ability to take in light. It also discourages most pests from making a permanent home out of your plants. Be sure to spray both the tops and undersides of the leaves for full absorption. Never foliar-feed plants indoors without first protecting your light source from the mist, and cease foliar feeding at about two weeks into flowering to avoid bud rot.



Onward Into Flower

Now that you've gotten them off to a good start, your plants are ready to enter the flowering stage. As you see signs of bud formation, shift over to a nutrient solution with more P and K (phosphorous and potassium). The plants you've painstakingly built into big vegetative bushes will soon transform into monster-sized marijuana trees. Enjoy! 🌿

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Fear and Loathing in the Ma

Hunter S. Thompson was one the first high-profile supporters of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. NORML founder Keith Stroup remembers what it was like to work and party with the king of gonzo journalism, whom he affectionately refers to as Doc. Their 30-plus-year friendship started with a joint and ended with the bullet with which Thompson took his own life, and provides one of the more colorful chapters in Keith's new book, *It's NORML to Smoke Pot: The 40-Year Fight for Marijuana Smokers' Rights*.



Hunter S. Thompson, Christie Hefner and Keith Stroup on a panel at the 1976 NORML conference in Washington, DC.

rijuana Movement



What's Up, Doc?

The first time I met Doc, he was smoking a joint under the bleachers at the 1972 Democratic National Convention in Miami. It was the convention's opening night, and I was sitting in the stands listening to the speeches when, quite suddenly—and unmistakably—I smelled marijuana and realized it was coming from down below. I looked under the bleachers and saw a fairly big guy smoking a fairly fat joint. He was trying to be discreet, but it wasn't working very well. I could see him hunkering in the shadows—tall and lanky, flailing his arms and looking oddly familiar. Jesus H. Christ, I realized—that's Hunter S. Thompson!

Screw the speeches.

I quickly made my way under the bleachers and approached as politely as possible.

"Hu-uh—what the fuck?!! Who're you?"

"Hey, Hunter. Keith Stroup from the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. We're a new smokers' lobby." Easy enough.

"Oh. Oh, yeah! Yeah! Here." Hunter held out his herb. "You want some?"

We finished that joint and started a friendship that would last 33 years.

I seem to recall some recognition on Hunter's part. It's possible I had sent him a letter before we'd met, inviting him to join the NORML advisory board. So Doc may have known who I was when I approached him under the bleachers in Miami, though I doubt it. But I certainly knew who he was.

Like every other young stoner in America, I'd read *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* as it was serialized eight months earlier in *Rolling Stone*. Hunter would soon rise to great fame, the kind from which one can never look back. The following summer, in 1973, the "Vegas book"—as he invariably called his signature work—was released to extraordinary acclaim, and Doc Thompson blazed his way into the world of 20th-century letters. But on the night I met him, his star was still ascending. With his mass audience in the future and his notoriety on the fringe,

he was working on his next book, *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72*, enjoying an access to campaign managers, strategists, planners and candidates the likes of which he would never see again.

Doc was a self-described political junkie, as am I, and that was the basis of our long friendship—that, and a mutual predilection for fine drugs. I spent many nights over the years hunkered down in the kitchenette of his home in Woody Creek, CO, stoned to the backs of my eyeballs, jagged on cocaine, too drunk for driving but not for talking politics.

On one of my first visits to Aspen, in the mid-1970s, Hunter and his wife at the time, Sandy, invited me to join them for

don't recall the exact topic, but from the pictures, it looks like we were enjoying ourselves. We were focused at the time on the progress we were making as more and more states joined the decriminalization bandwagon, and we honestly felt that we were edging closer to the day when marijuana would be legalized.

When Hunter's turn to speak came, he stood up at the podium and barked, "I don't know what all you people are so happy about! You seem to be celebrating! How can you be in such a good mood when I can't find any marijuana! What the fuck is going on here?"

Of course, he was working the crowd—I'd been up in his room the night before,

conference. He ran a 24-hour party room, and anytime I stopped by, a dozen or so conference attendees were having the time of their lives getting stoned with the legendary gonzo journalist. And, of course, Hunter played that role to the hilt, including throwing room-service carts into the wall and causing perhaps \$1,000 worth of damage to his suite—not major, but still expensive.

Once, when I was alone with Hunter and feeling the need to be more responsible with the organization's money, I complained to him about the room damage I had paid for two years in a row, then asked if he could be more careful. (It should be noted that Hunter, to his eternal credit, never asked for a fee to appear at any NORML event. We sometimes paid for his airline tickets and hotel room, but never an appearance fee.) Sensing the power position he had in our relationship, Hunter smiled and said, "Well, Keith, if you don't think I'm worth it, I don't have to come."

I immediately started laughing and said, "Never mind, Doc. Let's just keep things the way they are."

Because he had a point: Whatever expenses we incurred from his hotel-room abuse, attendance at our conferences would sometimes increase as much as 50 percent—from around 300 to more like 450—when word spread that Hunter would be there. And he never disappointed, making himself available almost around the clock to those who wanted to meet him, which was really code for getting stoned with him. People brought their best weed from around the country just for the chance to share it with Hunter S. Thompson.

Rocky Mountain High

For a long time, one of my favorite things in life was finding an excuse to visit Aspen and spend a couple of nights hanging out with Hunter. Aspen is a lovely town with great restaurants, fantastic skiing and lots of interesting people; it's a place where it's difficult not to enjoy yourself, regardless of the season. But my primary reason for visiting was the chance to recharge my batteries with a late night at Owl Farm.

An evening at Hunter's place was a special experience. He'd be sitting in the kitchen, at the breakfast bar, which he used as his desk and base of operations, with a typewriter and fax machine within easy reach and the remote control to his television set (with the largest home screen available at the time) dangling from the ceiling on a cord, so that he could always find it even under the most



Hunter S. Thompson knocked on his ass while creating art shooting spray cans of paint.

singer Jimmy Buffett's wedding. It was being held at the home of Glenn Frey, lead singer of the Eagles and a neighbor of Buffett's. Hunter and Sandy came to pick me up at the Jerome Hotel, and the three of us took acid so we could fully appreciate the wedding. I can recall arriving at a beautiful home, with Buffett and his soon-to-be wife Jane looking like two bona fide Aspen celebrities, and the Eagles performing after the wedding from a balcony. It was a truly unique and wonderful experience, but I have to take that on faith, since I was tripping my ass off and don't have much memory of the details.

Hunter on Board

In 1976 and '77, Hunter was a major player at the NORML conferences we held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill. One year he was on a panel that included Christie Hefner from *Playboy*, A. Craig Copetas from *High Times* and me. I

and Hunter had more drugs stashed away than even he could use (which is saying something). Nevertheless, he continued: "All the progress that you're talking about doesn't mean shit if marijuana smokers can't get good marijuana! What the fuck are you guys celebrating?"

A number of people in the audience began pelting him with joints, letting Hunter know they had his back in case he really did need more weed. But the point Hunter was making—in the way that only he could—was that, as long as smokers continued to be arrested and marijuana remained criminalized, it was premature to celebrate small victories in a few states. History has proved him right: More than 35 years later, we're still fighting prohibition, and more than 850,000 Americans were arrested on marijuana charges last year—the highest number to date.

During the second year, Hunter didn't seem to leave his suite during the

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And there were literally scores—perhaps hundreds—of notes and faxes and letters and pictures, most with scribbles from Hunter either editing his original typing or commenting on what someone else had said. These items, along with many other objets d’art, were stuck on the walls and the refrigerator and the kitchen cabinets and the lampshades with Scotch tape or tacks or paper clips. It was a familiar sight that I always enjoyed returning to, sort of a comfort zone away from home.

When you were Hunter’s guest, he would offer you the kitchen stool next to

maybe a third on the phone with someone else at the same time.

But you were never left feeling ignored or abandoned by Hunter—quite the opposite. Visiting with him was like being engaged in a never-ending intellectual contest in which his goal was to get you to say or do something that he could then ridicule good-naturedly. If he discovered some issue with which you were obviously uncomfortable, he would return to that subject repeatedly, with a sly grin that let you know he was having fun with you.

In my case, whenever I visited Hunter in the years following my involvement

allegation,” I protested. “I demand the right to speak with my counsel.”

One of the most remarkable things about Hunter was his ability to drink and do drugs in substantial quantities for hours on end; then, when I was fading and bidding my farewells at perhaps 2 or 3 a.m., he would call one of his assistants (at least one of whom usually lived on the farm), and they would get to work on whatever writing project was currently front and center. Then they’d work until daybreak, when Hunter might finally go to bed. To say that he was nocturnal seems like an understatement: Sometimes it seemed as if he were afraid of the light and lived the majority of his waking hours when it was dark.

Requiem for a Heavyweight

In February 2005, word came that Hunter had killed himself. He was sitting at his usual place, his command center in the kitchen, when he put a handgun to his head and pulled the trigger. Hunter was dead by his own hand at the age of 67. His health had been failing him for a couple of years; he’d had a hip replacement and was largely confined to a wheelchair. Whatever his reasons for taking his life at that particular time, it wasn’t a total surprise to anyone who’d known him over the years.

The last time I saw Hunter was in 2002, when my wife, Cindy, and I had taken a short vacation trip to Aspen in the spring and met him one morning for breakfast (okay, it may have been early afternoon) at one of his favorite spots right across from the Aspen airport. His health was still good at that time; he was in a playful mood, as usual, and sporting a silly red plastic pig hat, the kind that University of Arkansas fans wear to Razorback games.

Hunter insisted that Cindy wear the hat while we ate breakfast, and I have a wonderful photo of them sitting together and smiling, her with the red pig hat on her head. When I look at that photo now, it seems to capture the pure fun it was to spend time with Hunter, no matter where we were or what we were doing. Life was always exciting, funny and often a little dangerous when you were in his presence, and it made us all to want to hang out with him. It was a chance to live life on the wild side for a while, and then be able to leave and go back to the real world. Only Hunter could stay in that place all the time and survive. 🌿

To order a copy of Keith Stroup’s new book, go online to: <http://headshop.hightimes.com/books.html>.



The days of swine and roses

Life was always exciting, funny and often a little dangerous when you were in his presence, and it made us all want to hang out with him.

him—and if there were other guests, they would sit on a couch facing the television on the other side of the breakfast bar. The television was important because Hunter was a lifelong sports fan, and he loved to bet—not just on the outcome of a football game, but on every play during it. He would often pick up the phone and call a friend, even in the middle of the night, to see if the friend wanted to bet on the next play.

You might be engaged in a conversation with Hunter when he would suddenly fax a note to a friend with whom he was carrying on another dialogue, with some burst of insight that he felt would move it in the direction he wanted to go. Occasionally, he would share what he was doing with you, especially if it was a little out-of-bounds; at other times, he had two or three conversations going on—one with you in person, another with the recipient of the faxes, and

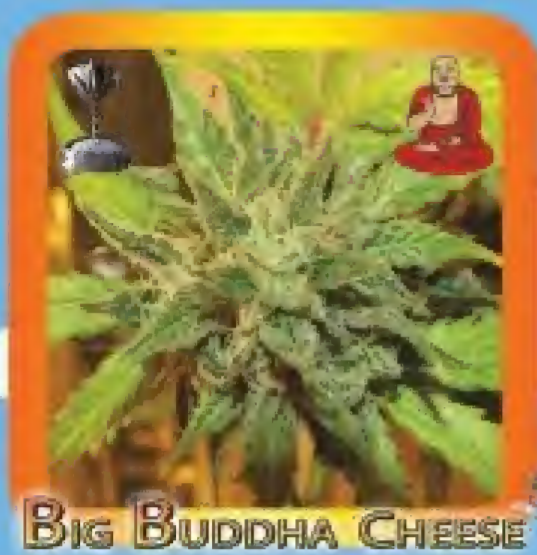
in the Bourne incident [in which Keith admitted to a journalist that he’d seen Peter Bourne, Jimmy Carter’s drug czar, snorting coke at a party—Ed.], even if it was two decades later, Hunter would insist on returning to the theme of not ratting out our allies and do his best to get me to apologize. I, on the other hand, would claim not to know anything about the whole affair and accuse him of making it up out of whole cloth. I recall one specific evening, probably around 2000 or 2001, when Gerry Goldstein and I were visiting Hunter, and the two of them wrestled me to the floor in an attempt to get me to “confess” as the first step toward my eventual “recovery and rehabilitation.”

“Admit it and clean your soul!” Hunter screamed as he and Gerry held me down. “You dropped a dime on Peter Bourne! Admit it, you fucker.”

“I neither admit nor deny the



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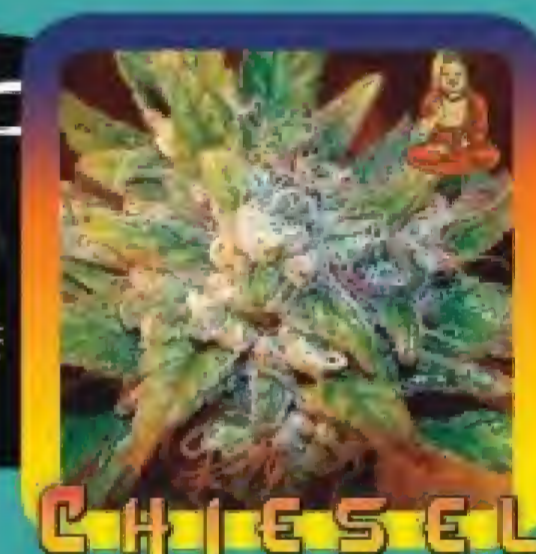
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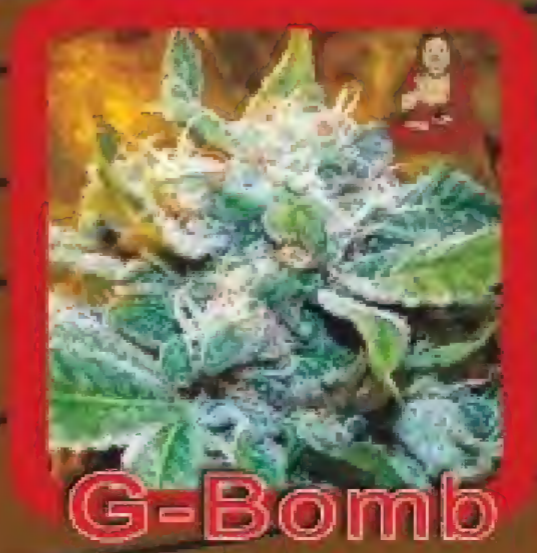
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Talking Terpenes

These cousins to the cannabinoids are the reason why various strains smell and taste different from the rest. Terpenes aren't just the "fingerprints" of a cannabis strain, which can be used to determine the purity and lineage of any given variety: They are also the key to pot's medicinal properties.

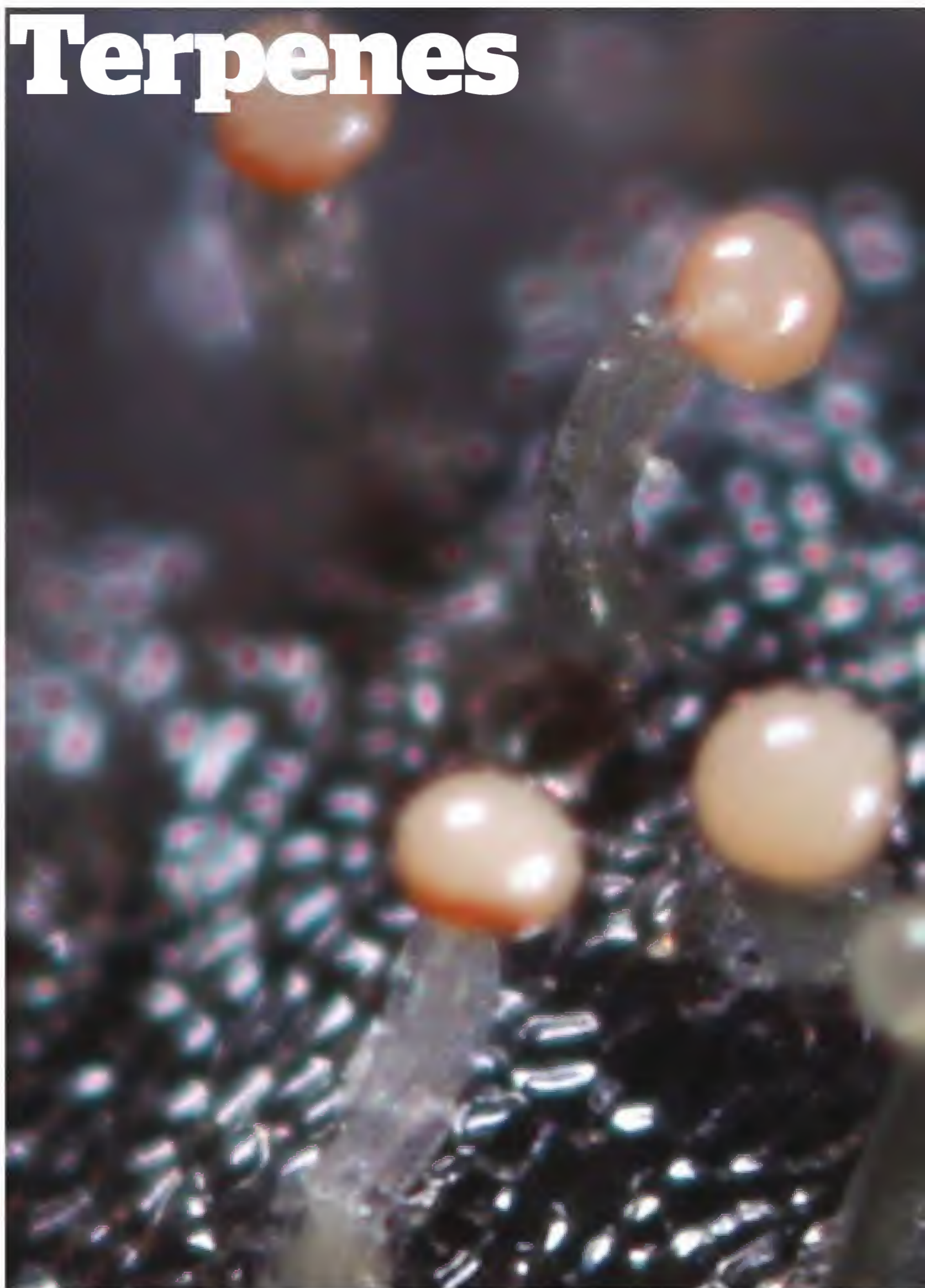
By Martin A. Lee

The first thing you notice upon entering a well-stocked medical marijuana dispensary is the many varieties of cannabis on display—dozens of glass jars filled with glistening, manicured bud. Everyone has their favorites: OG Kush, Headband, Sour Diesel, Flo, Lemon Thai, Super Silver Haze ... Some strains are energizing, some are sedating; some are better for pain, others for inspiration.

A couple hits of high-THC herb, by whatever name it's called, will get you good and stoned. But it's not the amount of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol that accounts for the particular properties of each strain. Nor are the minuscule quantities of cannabidiol (CBD) or the hundred or so "minor" cannabinoids a key factor in most strains. With few exceptions, the THC levels are lofty, while the other cannabinoids barely register their presence, according to labs that test samples for growers and dispensaries in states where medical marijuana is legal.

So if THC levels are generally high across the board and the other cannabinoids are present only at trace levels, what makes one strain different from another? And why does each marijuana strain impart a distinct psychoactive effect? There must be something else in the plant that influences the quality of the cannabis high.

David Watson, the master crafter of the foundational hybrid Skunk #1, was among the first to emphasize the importance of aromatic terpenes for their modifying impact on THC. Terpenes, or terpenoids, are the compounds in cannabis that give the plant its unique smell. THC and the other cannabinoids have no odor, so marijuana's compelling fragrance depends on which terpenes predominate. It's the combination of terpenoids and THC that endows each strain with a specific psychoactive flavor.



In 1989, Watson and his business partner, Robert Connell Clarke, formed HortaPharm, a legally chartered, Holland-based research company that specializes in botanical science and cannabis therapeutics. Based in Amsterdam, these two American expatriates broke new ground in horticultural pharmacology as they crossed and recrossed thousands of cannabis varieties, discarding most along the way while selecting a relatively small number for further development.

How did they decide which plants made the first cut? "We smelled them," Watson explains.

He had long suspected that the

terpenes present in cannabis resin enhance the potency of THC. Ten years after launching HortaPharm, Watson tested his hypothesis in an experiment that compared the subjective effects of 100 percent THC to lesser amounts in terpene-infused cannabis resin. The consensus among Watson and several associates: Terpene-infused resin with 50 percent THC was more potent by dry weight than an equivalent amount of pure THC.

Typically, terpenes are volatile molecules that evaporate easily and readily announce themselves to the nose. Therein lies the basis of aromatherapy, a popular alternative-healing modality. Like



Terpenes present in cannabis resin enhance the potency of THC.

their odorless cannabinoid cousins, terpenes are oily compounds secreted in the marijuana plant's glandular trichomes. Terpenes and THC share a biochemical precursor, geranyl pyrophosphate, which develops into the cannabinoids and terpenoids that saturate the plant's flower tops.

But unlike THC and the other plant cannabinoids that exist nowhere else but in marijuana, terpenes are ubiquitous throughout the natural world. Produced by countless plant species, terpenes are prevalent in fruits, vegetables, herbs, spices and other botanicals. Terpenes are also common ingredients in the human diet and have generally been recognized

as safe to consume by the US Food and Drug Administration.

Scientists have identified and characterized the molecular structure of some 20,000 terpenes, which compose the largest category of plant chemicals. These can be further broken down into monoterpenes, diterpenes and sesquiterpenes, depending on the number of repeating units of a five-carbon molecule called isoprene, the structural hallmark of all terpenoid compounds.

Around 200 terpenes have been found in cannabis, but only a few of these odiferous oily substances appear in amounts substantial enough to be noteworthy (or

nose-worthy, as it were). Also, the terpenoid profile can vary considerably from strain to strain. "The range of flavors expressed by the genus *Cannabis* is extraordinary—no other plant on the planet can equal the cacophony of smells and tastes available from cannabis," says DJ Short, the breeder-artisan who conjured True Blueberry from several heritage landrace strains.

The terpenes in marijuana have given the plant an enduring evolutionary advantage. Some of these essential oils are pungent enough to repel insects and animal grazers; others prevent fungus. To combat plant disease and infestation, organic pot growers spray the terpene-rich essential oils of neem and rosemary onto their

It's the combination of terpenoids and THC that endows each strain with a specific psychoactive flavor.

crops. And terpenes, it turns out, are healthy for people as well, according to a September 2011 report by Dr. Ethan Russo in the *British Journal of Pharmacology* that discussed the wide-ranging therapeutic attributes of terpenoids, including several aromatic compounds that figure prominently in cannabis strains.

Alpha-pinene (essential pine oil), the most common terpene in the plant world and one often found in cannabis, is a bronchodilator potentially helpful for asthmatics. Pinene also promotes alertness and memory retention by inhibiting the metabolic breakdown of acetylcholinesterase, a neurotransmitter in the brain that stimulates these cognitive effects.

Myrcene, another terpene present in numerous cannabis varieties, is a sedative, a muscle relaxant, a hypnotic, an analgesic (painkiller) and an anti-inflammatory compound. This musky terpene contributes mightily to the infamous "couch-lock" experience, Russo maintains.

Limonene, a major terpene in citrus as well as in cannabis, has been used

clinically to dissolve gallstones, improve mood and relieve heartburn and gastrointestinal reflux. Limonene has been shown to destroy breast-cancer cells in lab experiments, and its powerful antimicrobial action can kill pathogenic bacteria. (Lemon Kush, anyone?)

Linalool, a terpenoid prominent in lavender as well as in some cannabis strains, is an anxiolytic compound that counters anxiety and mediates stress. In addition, linalool is a strong anticonvulsant, and it also amplifies serotonin-receptor trans-

receptor, which is concentrated in the brain and the central nervous system.

Stimulating the CB2 receptor doesn't have a psychoactive effect because CB2 receptors are localized predominantly outside the brain and central nervous system. CB2 receptors are present in the gut, spleen, liver, heart, kidneys, bones, blood vessels, lymph cells, endocrine glands and reproductive organs. Marijuana is such a versatile medicinal substance because it acts *everywhere*, not just in the brain.

In 2008, the Swiss scientist Jürg

the lungs, enabling smoked or vaporized THC to enter the bloodstream more easily. Nerolidol, a sedative terpenoid, is a skin penetrant that increases permeability and potentially facilitates cannabinoid absorption when applied topically for pain or skin conditions. Terpenoids and cannabinoids both increase blood flow, enhance cortical activity and kill respiratory pathogens—including MSRA, the antibiotic-resistant bacteria that in recent years has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of Americans. Dr. Russo's article reports that cannabinoid-terpenoid interactions "could produce synergy with respect to treatment of pain, inflammation, depression, anxiety, addiction, epilepsy, cancer, fungal and bacterial infections."

Marijuana's bouquet of terpenes—that "riot of perfumes," as the poet (and hashish eater) Arthur Rimbaud once said—plays another important role: Terpenes buffer THC's tricky psychoactivity. Cannabinoid terpenoid interactions can amplify the beneficial effects of cannabis while reducing THC-induced anxiety.

Some people can't handle THC dominant marijuana, while others enjoy the relaxed intensity of the cannabis high. But few would willingly choose Marinol, the pure synthetic-THC pill, rather than organically grown backyard bud with its tangy, antioxidant-rich mixture of cannabinoids, terpenoids and flavonoids.

Marinol, legally available as a Schedule III substance, comes on like gangbusters and can make even the most seasoned stoner feel a bit too loopy. For nearly everyone who has tried both, the experience of THC alone compares poorly to that of THC combined with terpenes and other components of the cannabis plant.

In the summer of 2011, the Werc Shop in Los Angeles emerged as the first lab to test cannabis strains for terpenes. Since it began providing this service to the medical marijuana community, the Werc Shop has analyzed more than 2,000 bud samples for terpene content. Its analysis has occasionally revealed strains with different names but identical terpene content.

"A terpene analysis is like a fingerprint," explains the Werc Shop's president, Jeff Raber. "It can tell you if it's the same strain under different names. We can see strains going by different names that have the same terpene profile. We now know those strains are identical."

Terpene testing has enabled the Werc Shop to identify when strains have been misnamed. "We've seen a dozen of samples of Trainwreck, for example, that have



OG Kush has a large amount of the terpene limonene.

"A terpene analysis is like a fingerprint. It can tell you if it's the same strain under different names. We can see strains going by different names that have the same terpene profile. We now know those strains are identical."

mission, conferring an antidepressant effect. Applied topically, linalool can heal acne and skin burns without scarring.

Beta-caryophyllene is a sesquiterpene found in the essential oils of black pepper, oregano and other edible herbs, as well as in cannabis and many green, leafy vegetables. It is gastro-protective, good for treating certain ulcers and shows great promise as a therapeutic compound for inflammatory conditions and autoimmune disorders because of its ability to bind directly to the peripheral cannabinoid receptor known as CB2.

THC also activates the CB2 receptor, which regulates immune function and the peripheral nervous system. But this is not the reason people feel stoned when they smoke marijuana; instead, what causes the high is THC binding to the CB1

Gertsch documented beta-caryophyllene's binding affinity for the CB2 receptor and described it as "a dietary cannabinoid." It is the only terpenoid known to directly activate a cannabinoid receptor (which is one of the reasons why green, leafy vegetables are very healthy for people to eat). The dual status of beta-caryophyllene as a terpenoid and a CB2 activator underscores the synergistic interplay between various components of the cannabis plant. There are over 400 chemical compounds in marijuana, including cannabinoids, terpenoids and flavonoids (which give fruit skin its color). Each has specific medicinal attributes, which combine to create a holistic "entourage effect," so that the therapeutic impact of the whole plant is greater than the sum of its parts.

Certain terpenoids dilate capillaries in



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Trainwreck has high levels of the alpha-pinene terpene.

a consistent terpene profile,” Raber says. “And then we examine some bud purporting to be Trainwreck, but with a terpene content that differs markedly from what we know *is* Trainwreck. By testing for terpenes, we can often verify if the strain is what the grower or provider says it is.”

It may be possible, via terpenoid and cannabinoid analysis, to investigate and verify the genetic lineage of various strains. Though a great deal of research would be required, one might even be able to construct something akin to a marijuana family tree.

The Werc Shop has also tested numerous cannabis extracts for their terpene content. But Raber found that the oil-extraction process, if it involves heating the plant matter, typically destroys the terpenes, which evaporate at much lower temperatures than THC.

Various extraction methods have their pros and cons. Using hexane or another toxic solvent to extract cannabis oil can leave poisonous residues behind. Critical CO₂ extraction, while cleaner, requires expensive, sophisticated equipment and technical expertise. In either case, the extract maker may have to add the terpenes back into the oil concentrate in order to maximize the plant’s therapeutic potential.

In the future, when the herb is legal nationwide, it should be possible to access strain-specific cannabis oils, as well as made-to-order marijuana extracts with a full array of terpenes artfully tailored to meet the needs and desires of individual users. ✨

Martin A. Lee is the author of several books, including Acid Dreams and, most recently, Smoke Signals: A Social History of Marijuana—Medical, Recreational and Scientific (smokesignalsthebook.com).

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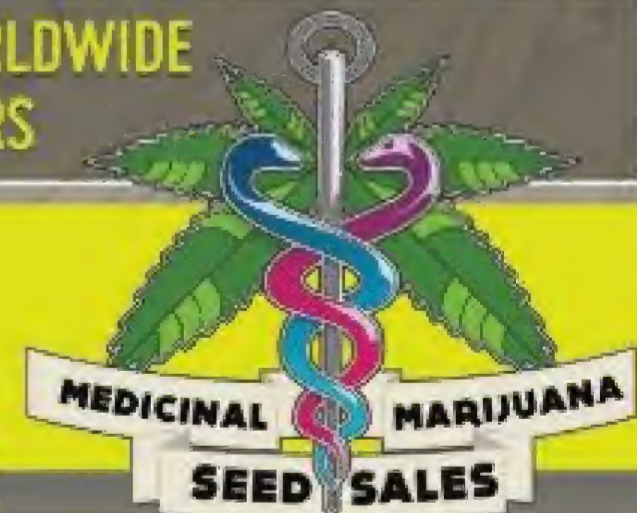
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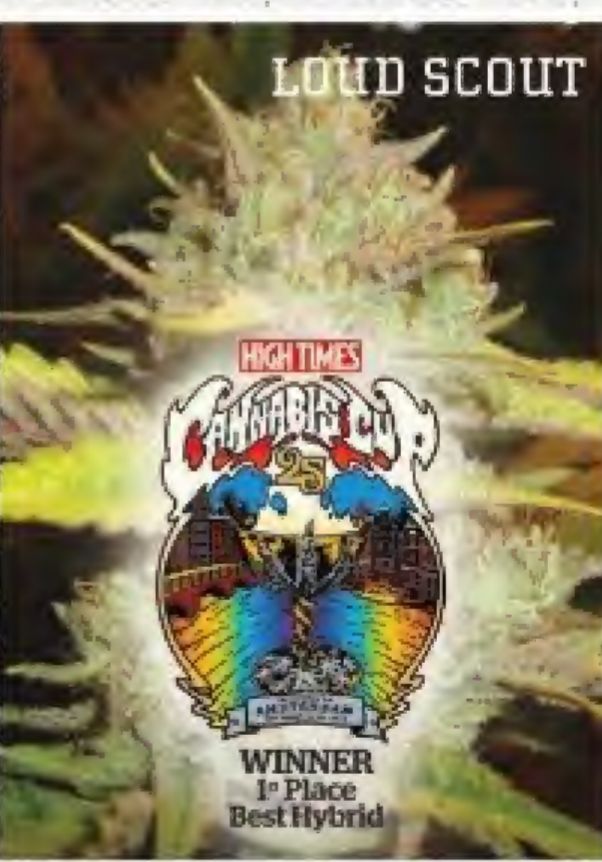
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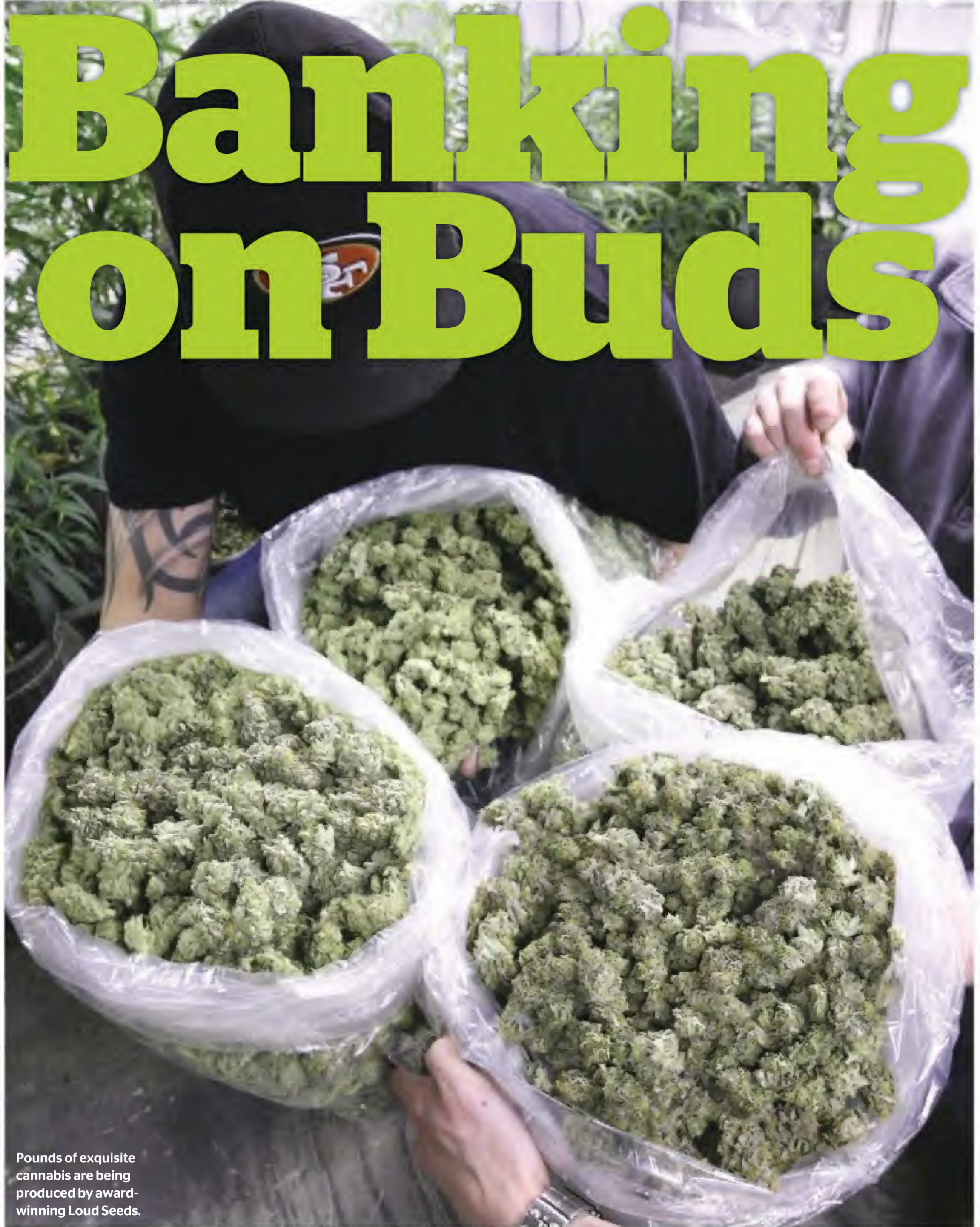
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Pounds of exquisite cannabis are being produced by award-winning Loud Seeds.

As the cannabis industry matures and commercial cultivation becomes more intensive, top growers are creating sleek, efficient business models for the new economy. *Story & Photos by Dan Skye*



In the Bay Area, a network of growers is at work perfecting Loud Seed strains.

Somewhere in the euphoric aftermath of accepting his award for top hybrid at last year's Cannabis Cup, Loud Seeds' James Loud realized that the victory had spawned an entire array of new responsibilities. That's what happens when the whole world suddenly wants your buds. Loud Scout (Girl Scout Cookies x Platinum OG Kush) had topped an impressive field, and now everyone wanted a taste. Loud Seeds could either rest on its newly won laurels, or it could decide to dig its roots deeper.

James chose to dig. He returned to his home in the San Francisco Bay Area knowing that his work was cut out for him.

But he was hardly alone in facing fresh responsibilities. That's because Loud Seeds is actually a California collective made up of medical patients with different skill sets. As in most medical cooperatives, Loud Seeds' botanists tend nurseries that raise the seedlings, while a cadre of growers oversees the strain-specific indoor gardens. Loud Seeds also includes outdoor farmers, top breeders and a research and development team. Moreover, it boasts a network of trusted friends. In fact, James says Loud Seeds got under way by virtue of a happy "accident" among friends.

"We were just breeding for our individual gardens—just experimenting," he recalls. "There was a male present in the room which we just plain missed, and we accidentally pollinated everything. We got all these seeds and were wondering what to do with them. Then the light went on: We realized we were capable of doing this and that we could positively impact the industry."

Loud Seeds has been growing strong for three years now. The group's formal launch, which will feature professional packaging and availability in California dispensaries, occurred this spring.

"A lot of time goes into the development of each strain," James says. "It can take years to stabilize a strain to the point where most of the phenotypes [the observable characteristics] are similar. Then again, sometimes it seems to happen practically overnight."

He adds that Original Loud (Spicy Jack x Sour Diesel), Loud Seeds' first great creation, was very easy to stabilize. But the team that developed Girl Scout Cookies faced a more challenging road to success. They took Cherry Pie, an *indica*-dominant hybrid that had already been crossed several times with other hybrids, and crossed it with Durban Poison, a landrace *sativa*.

"It was totally unstable, but amazing nonetheless," James says. "Loud Seeds acquired it, cultivated it, crossed it with our Platinum OG and got a wide variety of phenotypes in the gene pool. We literally went through more than 10,000 plants and devoted a year of work to finding the four phenotypes that we work with today. All are very different, with subtle similarities. We do a lot of cutting-edge things to accurately profile and record our genetic work. Loud Seeds uses gas chromatography to test for pesticides, mold, cannabinoids and terpenes. That's what really interests us: the entire profile of cannabinoids and terpenes, not just the amount of THC."

Among Loud Seeds' growers, a variety of cultivation methods are in use. However, you won't find any monster growrooms in the Loud network. "A lot of people have that 'Grow big or go home' mentality," James notes. "But I'm all about quality. The bigger the room, the harder it is to spot issues before they become problems. A bigger growroom means it's harder to deal with variables—even with good help."

For example, a grower named Gypsy—one of James's mentors—gets 2.5 pounds of top-grade cannabis per 1,000 watts of light on a routine basis. But her room is

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small, allowing her to devote more attention to the plants.

“The maintenance that goes into cultivating is a lot of work for one person,” James says. “I’m not just talking about the setup and breakdown. It’s the daily work—all of your plants require individual attention. You need to constantly look out for problems and be able to adjust on the fly in order to get quality product. The automated technology we’re using today helps a great deal; it allows us to spend more time with the plants, nurturing them like children.”

If you want to start growing, careful planning is everything. James advises mapping out the entire setup in advance before you spend a penny. “Do it right the first time,” he says. “Make sure you have enough airflow. Also, creating walkways so you can work with your plants comfortably is so important.”

For most rooms, he prefers 1,000-watt

digital Lumatek ballasts and Hortilux bulbs. He’s also a big fan of Raptor Hoods and 10-gallon Air-Pots. James calls the HydroGEN Pro CO₂ generator “amazing” because it doesn’t put out any heat, and he lauds the Sentinel CHH-4 environmental controller for its ability to maintain indoor garden environments with outstanding accuracy: It monitors and records minimum and maximum temperatures, humidity and CO₂ levels. He also recommends Can Fan max-fans and installing insulated ducting throughout.

“The problem I see with a lot of rooms is that they have orange electrical cords hanging and exposed electrical wires and other hazards,” James says. “These can easily be fixed. Your room should be up to code whether or not it ever gets inspected—not only for cleanliness, but for safety.”

James recommends top feeding for bringing out the best flavor in a strain. For



James Loud sees a highly prosperous future ahead.

the growing medium, he prefers a blend of FoxFarms Ocean Forest and Roots Organic Green Lite Mix at a 3:1 ratio. “Ocean Forest is an amazing soil, loaded with nutrients and ready to rock. But it’s too dense. By adding Roots Organic, you make it more airy and easier for the roots to grow and absorb oxygen.”

Most of the growers in the Loud Seeds network are given seed starts. Both the growers and breeders focus on projects cooked up in the “boardroom.” Once the projects are conceived and a framework created, specific aspects are delegated and the work really begins. Aside from these breeding projects, Loud cultivators constantly test over 20 strains that are currently being perfected. Specific traits are tracked in all of the gardens as they develop their genetics. “We’re always looking for that one-in-a-million lottery ticket,” James says wistfully, “like the one we got with the Original Loud.”

California may be the cradle of marijuana consciousness, enacting the nation’s first medical marijuana program, but the state hasn’t legalized adult recreational use as Colorado and Washington have. The Loud Seeds network has to operate quietly and efficiently until that day comes.

Across the country in Rhode Island, DJ Stone has taken full advantage of the state’s nascent medical marijuana scene. If ever there was a part of America that needed a new dimension to its economy, it’s the Ocean State. Rhode Island has had it rough during the Great Recession: At the beginning of 2010, the state’s unemployment rate exceeded 12 percent; it now stands at 10.5 percent.

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DJ Stone (right) prefers hydro systems because of their low maintenance.



But while the state's med-pot scene is nowhere near as advanced as that of California or Colorado, DJ Stone has quietly set a new company in motion, laying the groundwork for future ganja commerce.

Under the current Rhode Island medical marijuana law, no person may have more than two caregivers, and caregivers may not possess more than 24 mature plants, 12 seedlings and five ounces of usable medicine, regardless of the number of patients they have.

DJ Stone heads up a co-op of medical growers. Just outside Providence, he has taken old warehouse space and converted it into a maze of growrooms. His facility measures about 2,000 square feet and consists of nine separate rooms: four for vegging and the rest for flowering. Of the nine rooms, three are hydroponic gardens in which he uses flood-and-drain tables or a deepwater culture (DWC) system. The

other six are soil gardens.

"I really love the taste of soil," DJ says. "But hydro grows so quickly, and it's easier to maintain if you're on an extended leave of absence. We've produced fantastic results from flood-and-drain tables as well. The lights in each room differ depending on the size of the room and, of course, the needs of the plants. In the deepwater-culture room, we use three 1,000-watt bulbs and two T-5s for side lighting. Our largest room uses ten 1,000-watt bulbs and five T-5s for side lighting. We use metal halides in all of our veg rooms, but in the deepwater-culture veg room, we use them only for two weeks because the plants develop so quickly. We've outfitted all of our rooms with fans, ventilation systems and air-cooled lights."

Every week, the co-op harvests 24 plants, with each plant yielding 3 to 5 ounces. Any extra product is distributed

to patients in need through the co-op's self-styled "gifting program."

Twelve strains are under cultivation here. Among them are Blue Cheese (which has proved effective for cancer patients), Blueberry Chemdog, Sour Kush, Super Lemon Haze, Super Silver Haze, Strawberry Diesel and three Loud Seeds strains: Granddaddy Purps, Loud Dementia and Loud Scout.

"Loud genetics," DJ says, "have become tremendously popular for us."

Although he'd like to grow bigger, the risks are too great in Rhode Island. More importantly, he doesn't want to hinder patients' access to medicine by violating state law or letting dollar signs obscure his vision. He's content for now to cultivate great medicine and let the public slowly but surely come to the realization that legalizing marijuana makes sense. To that end, DJ began *1000 Watts* magazine last year, the first cannabis-themed publication ever to be published in the state.

"I've been an advocate for over 25 years," DJ says, "and I am passionate about bringing change to our cannabis laws. I intend to continue what I started until that guy in the Oval Office opens his eyes."

In Colorado, the playing field is decidedly different—mostly because the state government knows where the legal grows are. Marisol Therapeutics, located in Pueblo, has certainly made no secret of its operations. It's a vertically integrated, family-run business (see "Family Values," Feb. '12, *HT*) that includes a sizable garden and dispensary serving 600 regular patients.

A year ago, Marisol relied on a huge

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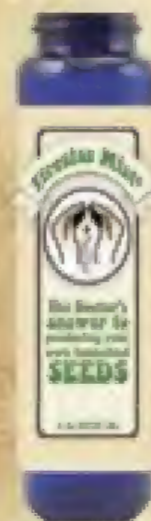
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Michael Stetler of Marisol Therapeutics. On the wall of his warehouse garden, a portrait of Jesus hangs next to his state grower's license.

greenhouse to fulfill the needs of patients. But new zoning laws in Pueblo County necessitated a move. Michael Stetler, the “patriarch” of Marisol, used the relocation as an opportunity to grow larger. He built a barnlike structure (150 by 60 feet) on a tract of farmland and planted a massive indoor garden.

But this setup is only temporary.

Michael's a great believer in the power of Mother Nature, and he's long championed cannabis grown without “artificial” aids. (A deeply spiritual man, he has pictures of Jesus hanging on the wall right next to his license from the Colorado Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division. In fact, local Catholic priests have stopped by the gardens and blessed

his plants.) By summer, he plans to have six greenhouses erected and a full acre of outdoor plants in the adjacent field. At that point, the barn where his plants currently grow will be transformed into a drying and processing facility.

Inside the barn, plants in the vegetative stage occupy half the space, and those in flower occupy the rest. Marisol cultivates 76 strains, the most popular being Bubba Kush, Nehi Grape and Santa Maria. The latter two are venerable strains that Michael has nurtured and safeguarded for years.

Overhead, sixty-four 1,000-watt lights (a combination of high-pressure sodium and halogen lamps) light the vast garden. A giant “swamp cooler,” which uses evaporation to cool the air, keeps the temperature regulated and uses far less energy than air-conditioning. An air-exchange system kicks in every 18 minutes.

For soil, Marisol relies on stagnant peat moss mixed with worm castings and blends it with perlite, vermiculite and dolomite lime. The growers produce their own compost tea and use the manure of cows, horses, lambs and llamas.

The Marisol gardens require a staff of 32. It's a 24-hour operation, six days a week; Sunday is a half-day for the

2nd place at the 25th HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup 2012



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workers. But as James Loud noted, big gardens can present a multitude of problems. That's why Michael, a veteran grower for 30-plus years, is a stickler about having things done his way. Over the four years that Marisol has been in

business, he's seen his share of headaches created by garden workers who didn't know better, didn't care to find out or thought they knew everything.

"This isn't an experiment; this is medicine," Michael says simply. "Every

15 to 20 days, we harvest up to 80 plants. If everyone's doing the job that I've entrusted them to do, then there shouldn't be any problems." And because Marisol has followed state guidelines to the letter, its operations have never come under fire. The facilities have been inspected by county authorities on multiple occasions and have met with nothing but approval.

Marisol is now creating its own line of edible products under the White Buffalo label, assisted by the Candy Girls, an outstanding Denver-based kitchen that has been stocking the state's medical marijuana centers with a variety of treats. And with recreational marijuana businesses on the horizon for 2014, Marisol is poised to become a major player.

"We've got all kinds of ideas," Michael says. "We have our eyes on the ski resorts. We want to open coffeeshops.

Our goal is to someday be able to harvest 1,000 plants per month to fulfill the needs of this new economy." ✨

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He's got game:
Hitman Glass
owner Dougie
Fresh.



Grandmaster Fresh

Just before our Medical Cannabis Cup in San Francisco last June, Hitman Glass founder Dougie Fresh sat down with *High Times* senior editor Bobby Black for a friendly game of “concentrate chess,” during which they discussed the company’s origin, the murder of his partner and the flourishing culture of functional glass art. *by Bobby Black*

By enlisting top-name talent and concentrating on smokeware for, well, concentrates, Hitman Glass has situated itself firmly on the cutting edge of the paraphernalia industry. In 2010, the company raised the bar (and a lot of eyebrows) with the release of its innovative “torch tube” oil rigs. Then, last spring, Hitman did it again when it launched one of the most ambitious and inspired projects ever undertaken in the glass community: *Chess Pieces*, a series of functional chess-themed works commissioned from some of the nation’s most prominent borosilicate artists. Among the many phenomenal submissions was a \$20,000 hookah chess table, a collaboration between famed artisans Banjo and Tristan referred to as the Legend Set. When I learned that Hitman head honcho Dougie Fresh would be keeping the set for himself and hadn’t yet used it, I proposed that we christen the piece with its first game—and first smoke—over an interview and photo shoot. He enthusiastically accepted my challenge.



We'd originally scheduled the match for a Sunday, but as the date drew near, Sunday turned into Monday, Monday became Tuesday and then it was Monday again. That's how Dougie rolls—fast, loose and heavy. He'll keep you guessing until the last second, but he always pulls through in the pinch. He arrived to our rendezvous in a van packed chassis to roof with bubble-wrapped bubblers, looking like the ringmaster of some traveling stoner sideshow. At just 26 years old, he's still new to this whole marijuana-mogul thing—but he's starting to get the hang of it. After we set up the board and chocked down a monstrous hit of Hardcore OG Budder from its hookah hoses, our game—and the interview—got under way, with me playing black (naturally) and him making the first move.

"Tell me about how Hitman started," I say, pushing my first pawn forward on the checkered battlefield.

"Well, I felt drawn to weed at a pretty young age—in early middle school," Dougie replies as he initiates his offensive. "Growing up in Lexington, a really nice suburb of Boston, it was difficult to get good weed. The first time I got *great* weed, it was in Boston from my buddy Adam. It was through him that I met Erik."

Dougie's referring to Erik Weissman, with whom he founded Hitman Glass. It was Erik, he informs me, who first schooled him about marijuana.

"My initial relationship with Erik was getting pot from him. I loved him from the beginning—his generosity, his great sense of humor. When I moved to Boston, I started spending more time with him, and we got really close."

During college, the two started working at Boston's newest headshop, the Joint, and attending music festivals together, where they began collecting glass and networking. It was at one of these festivals—the Gathering of the Vibes in 2006—that they met a struggling young glassblower from Maine named Steve Bates, who would forever change their lives.

"He was a conceptual artist that made unbelievably techy, science-y pipes like Erik and I had never seen before. We started driving up to Portland, buying pipes from Bates, then selling them down at the Joint. He made this turbine piece, and we were like, 'Oh my God—we've never seen anything like this! We want 10!'"

But when Bates expressed a reluctance to mass-produce his work, the duo decided to form their own company and do it for him. Knowing that the turbine



It's good to be the king.

percolator (which spins the water inside) was a catchy feature, they committed to creating a product line centered around Bates's design.

"Erik and I just dove in without looking back," Dougie recalls as he relieves me of my bishop. "We knew nothing about glassblowing, but we put a bunch of money into the equipment, and I paid Steve 10 grand to teach a crew of people."

Unfortunately, the crew they recruited weren't very loyal to their benefactors: As soon as they'd learned their skills, they took off—leaving the two partners hanging, close to \$100,000 in the hole and with no one to produce their products. With their first attempt such a costly failure, Dougie was ready to give up. But Erik, ever the optimist, wouldn't hear of it.

"It was such a huge loss ... I think 95 percent of people would've said, 'Fuck the glass scene' and done something else. But Erik was at my shoulder through the whole thing, and he was like, 'Nah, we just met the wrong people. Fuck 'em, dude—we'll just keep going.'"

Another factor Dougie credits with playing a big role in their success was the Easy Street glass gallery in Brooklyn. Before closing its doors last year, the gallery hosted monthly parties to showcase new artist exhibits—giving the public direct access to up-and-coming glassblowers and their work.

"Erik and I used to drive down from Boston to meet the artists that were making the pipes," Dougie says. "We were collectors, and we wanted to know these

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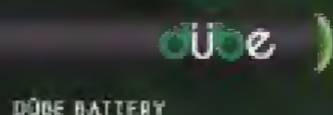
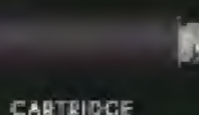
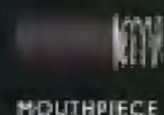
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The insect set by Buck and Darby

people and buy their work. They were all very welcoming to us.”

It was there, at Easy Street, where I first met Erik, who introduced me not only to Dougie but to my first dab. He even gifted me with one of their oil rigs—the very apparatus for smoking extracts that put Hitman on the proverbial map. “So,” I ask as I scramble to save my rook, “who turned *you* on to dabbing?”

“A glassblower gave me my first dab,” Dougie replies as his salient stratagem continues to decimate my defenses. “He grew phenomenal pot but said he hadn’t smoked flowers in a year—he just smoked this *other* substance. I had no idea what it was ... I was like, ‘What is this, hash?’ He got me good—I was coughing outside for like an hour after.”

Though originally intended as a bong company, Hitman instead shifted gears and started making rigs to take advantage of the growing popularity of concentrates. With Erik’s encouragement, Dougie moved the company out west and set up shop outside Los Angeles. There, the brand really began to take off—thanks in no small part to Bates’s next invention, the torch tube. By incorporating what is essentially a glass Bunsen burner into the base of the bong, the Borch (as it’s been nicknamed) eliminated the need for a separate handheld torch to heat the nail.

The innovation was more than just ingenious and practical—it was straight-up badass, and quickly made Hitman the most talked-about company on the glass scene. Due to a pending possession charge in Massachusetts, Erik couldn’t accompany his partner to California, but



Dougie with his late partner, Erik



The Chess Pieces art book

he planned to follow later in the year once his case had been settled. Tragically, he never had that chance.

“Out of nowhere, I got a Facebook message from some dude saying, ‘I heard something happened to Erik,’” Dougie recalls somberly. “I thought, ‘Oh, man—did he get arrested?’ I never thought something so drastic could’ve happened ...”

On the morning of September 12, 2011, Erik Weissman and his two roommates were found dead in their apartment—stabbed multiple times, their bodies soaked in blood and sprinkled with

“Erik would never wrong anyone. Everyone in the pipe scene loved that kid, just like I loved him. He was such an unselfish guy.”

marijuana. None of Erik’s friends are sure why it happened; Dougie believes it was simply a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

“I don’t know the people he was with ... I heard rumors that [his roommates] were selling coke, but I don’t know that ... All I know is that Erik would never wrong anyone. He was such an unselfish guy. Everybody in the pipe scene loved that kid, just like Nicky [Dougie’s longtime girlfriend] and I loved him.”


The case remains unsolved to this day. The authorities still haven’t established so much as a motive or charged any suspects—leaving Erik’s family and friends angry and confused.

“It’s been really difficult for me,” Dougie says as he fights back the tears. “Losing your best friend—someone you’ve been with every day for like seven years—out of fucking nowhere ... and there’s no conclusion, no answer to what happened or why.”

Rather than becoming disheartened, Dougie channeled the pain of his partner’s tragic death into achieving the cathartic culmination of his life’s dream: *Chess Pieces*. Over 30 incredible artists contributed work to the collection, including Ben Burton and Calm’s colorful ocean-versus-desert set, Buck and Darby’s insanely elaborate insect set and, of course, Banjo and Tristan’s magnificent game table, from which my pieces were being rapidly removed. And if all that wasn’t ambitious enough, the sets are also showcased in a slick 407-page art book. The entire project was unveiled at a premiere party at Denver’s prestigious Illuzion Glass Gallery on April 20 of last year.

Having no experience in publishing, Dougie relied heavily on the help and expertise of friends to realize his labor of love—including artistic director Ryan Cheney (one of his and Erik’s close friends from college) and photographer Anthony Muñoz (who shoots for Aqualab Technologies). Despite the many people to whom Dougie feels he owes thanks, the book

Banjo \ Tristan

hitman glass 

Chess Pieces

Book available now



The Ocean vs. Desert set, a Burton/Calm collaboration

bears but two dedications: one, “In loving memory of Erik Weissman,” and the other, to Dougie’s 70-year-old father, James, who was the inspiration for the entire endeavor.

“I had a great role model ... My dad started playing chess in school, back in the ’50s, and would ride his bike or hitchhike to competitions. He was a rugged cat who was really driven—when he cared about something, he didn’t give a fuck what other people thought.”

A bookstore manager from upstate New York, James was a self-taught chess master who instilled in his son an appreciation for the game at an early age. It’s this lifelong love of chess, and the longing

for parental approval, that fueled Dougie’s dream.

“This book was something I’ve always wanted to do while my father was still alive,” he says as my knight falls to his bishop. “I’m very lucky that I got the opportunity to complete it and have him see it and be proud of me. That’s the most fulfilling part of it for me ... I can’t even put that into words. It was really important to me that my parents know who I am—I’m not going to hide my choices,” he asserts as he captures my queen. “But my mom was very stuck on, ‘You’re making pipes ... is this legal?’ That was one of the goals with this book—to be able to hand it to my mother

and say, ‘Your judgment of pipes and the people who make them is wrong. These aren’t just pipes, and these aren’t criminals that are making them—they’re artists. They’re my friends, people I respect and look up to.’

Dougie sees his mother as an allegory for all those in society who look down on this most taboo of art forms and the ballooning stoner subculture that surrounds it. His larger goal with *Chess Pieces* was to help dispel that taboo and cast the glass industry in a more favorable light.

“There are people hiding in their garages making pipes right now and headshops on the East Coast getting shut down for selling them,” he points out. “But where is the line between ‘drug paraphernalia’ and functional contemporary art? At what point do people acknowledge that we’re not trying to create something hazardous—we’re trying to create something beautiful? This is the way I want to portray the glass scene—that there’s real talent.”

One look at this chess set proves that. It’s just one of the many high-priced, custom collabs they’ve put out with the serious collector in mind—one of Hitman’s founding ideals.

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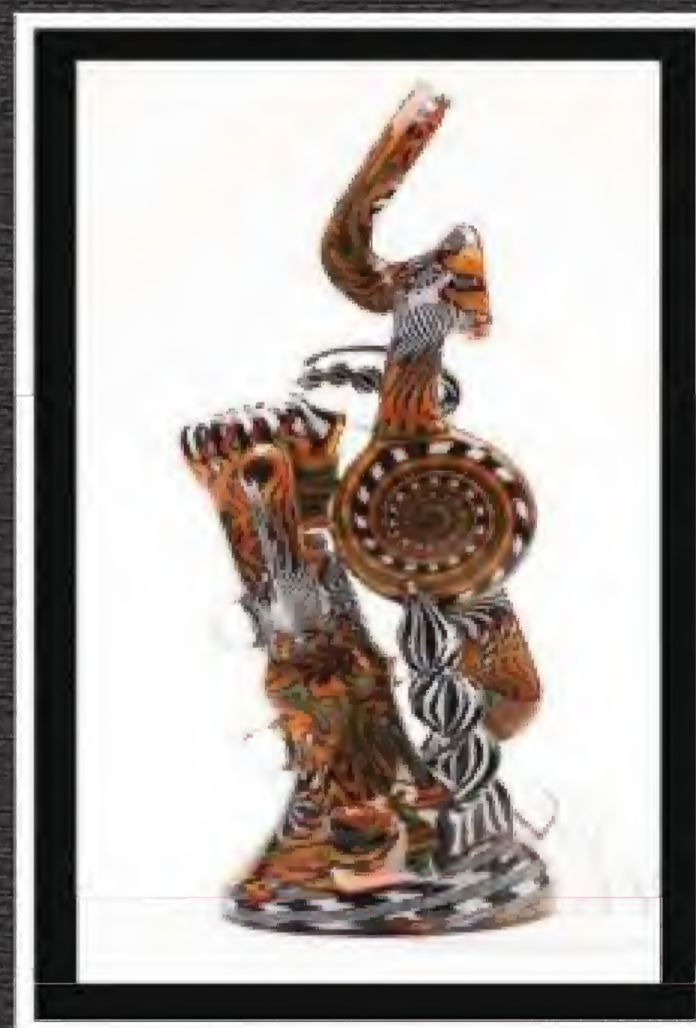
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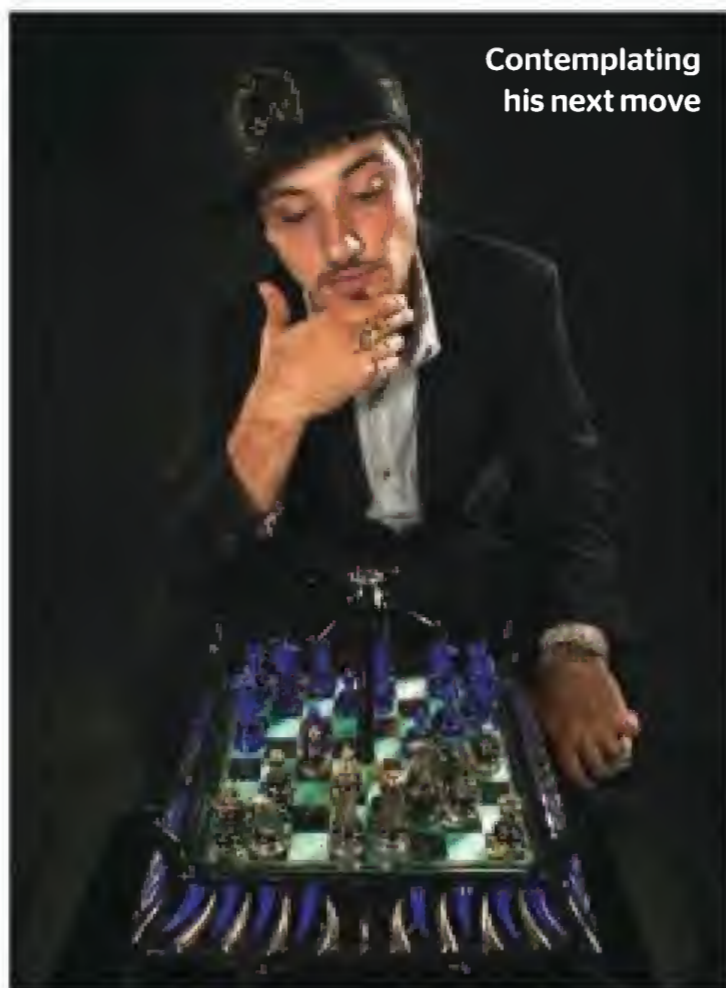
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“Our goal was never for *everybody* to own our products—we wanted *real heads* to own our products,” Dougie says. “We wanted to create something that would be used only by connoisseurs and people who are influential in the cannabis scene.”

Of course, he and the rest of the Hitman team (Joe, Ari, Tim and Boston Maaark) know that, in the long run, they also have to appeal to a wider audience. To that end, they’ve created a line of more affordable production pieces, including straight tubes, turbines and ratchet turbines (another innovation from Bates).

Most recently, they’ve created a new subdivision called Phase Two, which incorporates feedback they’ve received from their artists and consumers into a series of smaller, more practical production pieces. And by fall, they hope to launch another line called Chalice, which Dougie says will highlight the spiritual side of cannabis, as reflected in Rastafarianism. But whether it’s a \$3,000 “worked” piece or a \$300 production pipe, for Dougie and the rest of the Hitman crew, it’s all about crafting quality products that smokers will be stoked to own and use.



Contemplating his next move

“I know about a person’s relationship with their piece of glass,” Dougie says as he closes in for the kill. “People are proud of their pipes—they look at them every day, bring them everywhere they go. Glass can be very sentimental: I have Erik’s whole collection at my parents’ house. There are a lot of pieces that we got together that I’ll never sell.”

“We wanted to create something that would be used only by connoisseurs and people who are influential in the cannabis scene.”

It’s with this deep sense of reverence and remembrance that Dougie Fresh faces the future, determined to surmount whatever challenges come his way and ensure that Hitman Glass remains at the forefront of the industry he’s dedicated his life to.

“I stand behind what we represent 100 fucking percent,” he boasts as he corners my king. “I’m proud to own this company. It will always be something meaningful to me, because it’s a legacy that Erik and I built *together*. That seed that he and I planted is growing on its own, and I think he would be really proud of where Hitman is now. Oh, and that’s checkmate, Bobby.”

Well played, Grandmaster Fresh ... well played. ✨

See highlights: hightimes.com/hitmanglass



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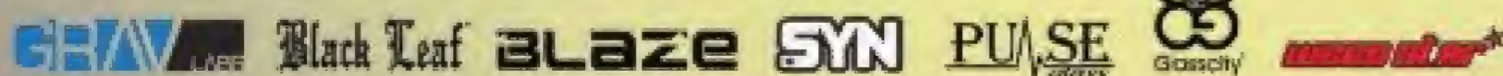
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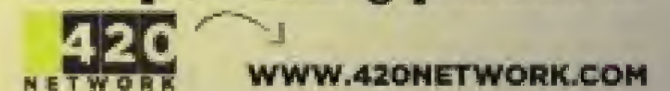
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Q&A NICKE OFFERMAN

THE HIGHTIMES INTERVIEW

NICK OFFERMAN ARRIVES FOR HIS *HIGH TIMES* INTERVIEW AND PHOTO SHOOT DIRECTLY FROM THE SET OF NBC'S HIT COMEDY *PARKS AND RECREATION*, IN WHICH HE STARS AS LIBERTARIAN BUREAUCRAT RON SWANSON.

A MASTER WOODWORKER AS WELL AS AN ACTOR, WRITER AND PRODUCER, OFFERMAN SPORTS SWANSON'S SIGNATURE BUSHY MUSTACHE AND A WELL-WORN WILLIE NELSON T-SHIRT. FOR SHOW-AND-TELL, HE'S BROUGHT ALONG A COFFIN-SHAPED STASH BOX AND A *LORD OF THE RINGS*-STYLE POT PIPE, BOTH OF WHICH HE MADE HIMSELF.

OFFERMAN GREW UP ON A FARM IN RURAL ILLINOIS, WHERE HE LEARNED A LOVE OF TOOLS AND CRAFTSMANSHIP THAT HE'S DEVELOPED THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE. AS A STRUGGLING YOUNG ACTOR IN CHICAGO'S INFLUENTIAL STOREFRONT THEATER SCENE, HE BUILT SETS AND PROPS FOR LOCAL PRODUCTIONS AS A WAY TO GET A FOOT IN THE DOOR, AND ALSO TO SUPPLEMENT HIS MEAGER INCOME. YEARS LATER, AFTER MOVING TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO PURSUE FILM AND TELEVISION ROLES, HE OPENED OFFERMAN WOODSHOP, HIS OWN CRAFT STUDIO IN LOS ANGELES.

AND IF ALL ELSE FAILS, HE CAN ALWAYS FALL BACK ON SHOWBIZ, SINCE HIS CULTURALLY ICONIC PORTRAYAL OF AMERICA'S FAVORITE MEAT-EATING, GUN-TOTING, PROPERTY-RIGHTS-DEFENDING PARKS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE HAS LATELY MADE OFFERMAN A HOT PROPERTY IN HOLLYWOOD. ALONG WITH HIS REAL-LIFE WIFE (AND RON SWANSON EX-WIFE), MEGAN MULLALLY, HE'LL BE APPEARING IN *SOMEBODY UP THERE LIKES ME*, AN OFFBEAT NEW INDIE COMEDY FROM BOB BYINGTON, THE WRITER AND DIRECTOR OF *RSO* AND *HARMONY AND ME*. OFFERMAN WILL ALSO BE FEATURED (ALONG WITH JENNIFER ANISTON AND JASON SUDEIKIS) IN *WE'RE THE MILLERS*, A COMEDY ABOUT AN ELABORATE PLOT TO SMUGGLE A THOUSAND POUNDS OF POT ACROSS THE MEXICAN BORDER.

GIVEN THESE HIGH-PROFILE APPEARANCES AND HIS WELL-KNOWN LOVE OF BACON, WE DECIDED TO TEMPT THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSTACHE WITH A PLATE FULL OF MAPLE BACON GANJA CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES, SPECIALLY MADE IN HIS HONOR BY THE AUTHOR OF OUR VERY OWN *OFFICIAL HIGH TIMES CANNABIS COOKBOOK* (SEE PAGE 94). SITTING DOWN TO SAMPLE ONE BETWEEN PHOTOS, OFFERMAN APPEARED TO TAKE GREAT DELIGHT IN FIELDING OUR QUESTIONS.

Could you start by telling me a little more about the coffin-shaped stash box and Gandalf pipe you've brought?

First of all, this Maple Bacon Ganja Chocolate Chip Cookie is goddamn delicious. *Was that the question?* Because that's my answer ...

Okay, the coffin-shaped stash box is adorned with the

visage of J.R. "Bob" Dobbs, the High Eopt of the Church of the SubGenius—a faux religion based out of Dallas that's been around since 1979. It's really funny: Bob Dobbs preaches "Get slack and smoke frop," which is weed. They just promote a weird, tea-head lifestyle. My friends and I were very into this church in college

and theater school.

Years later, when I was making a coffee table for one of those friends and his wife, I knew that this particular friend was going to need some place to stash his weed. And since he loves all things macabre, I made a coffin-shaped box that fits neatly into a secret compartment underneath the table.

As for the pipe, if you enjoy smoking and you're a fan of the writing of J.R.R. Tolkien, I think it's only natural that you dream of making such a pipe. But first you must learn how to drill a hole through a thin, curved tube, which is very difficult. So when I finally discerned how I could achieve such a thing, I immediately did so.

Have you ever used marijuana while acting?

I tried it once when I first started smoking pot back in college. I thought: "Marijuana is amazing! The world is so beautiful—it's going to be so cool when I get really high and then perform in this production of *Man of La Mancha*." So I did it. And, you know, one of the things new initiates often say when they first smoke pot is, "I feel like everybody's looking at me."

Well, when you're standing on a stage and people have paid money—they are indeed looking at you. It was quite unnerving. I got especially freaked out because I had a scene where Sancho Panza hit me upside the head with his guitar, and normally I would do this half back-handspring thing and make it look like I landed on my face. Now, I'm not sure exactly what I did on this particular occasion, but I jumped up and spun and flipped and managed to land squarely on my temple—in fact, I busted my head open. And I actually had three small roles in the play, so for the rest of the show, all three characters had a streak

of blood running down their cheek. And that was the last time I tried smoking weed before going onstage.

Is marijuana ever a part of your creative process if you're not performing?

When I use weed creatively, I'm much better at drawing or making something or playing music. But what I do for a living is mostly performing as an actor or writing, and for those things I need to have my faculties sharp. So I'd say that, indirectly, it's very helpful. The doors that I open when I'm using marijuana profoundly affect the body of knowledge I have to draw from when I play characters or write about life situations.

Aside from Maple Bacon Ganja Chocolate Chip Cookies, do you have a favorite edible?

Well, I have to say that the heyday, the salad days, of my pot career was in my twenties and early thirties, and I wasn't around a crowd that knew how to do much more than make brownies ... but we definitely visited Xanadu once or twice under the influence of those brownies.

By and large, though, most of my marijuana career has involved joints and pipes and bong. When I started out in my theater company, one of the guys had an eight-foot bong. And there was a rather Olympian competition that we would engage in trying to clear it: You had to stand on a coffee table and get somebody else to light it for you. Only at a young age—maybe 23 or 24—could a few of us actually clear an eight-foot rip. And then you would fall on the floor and smile for 11 hours.

How were you feeling on election night when Colorado and Washington voted to legalize marijuana?

Fantastic. Civilization is very funny, I think: We started out as animals, and over time we've developed to a point

where, slowly but surely, we're trying to make everything cool for everybody. We just 15 minutes ago, relatively speaking, announced that it's okay for black people to be treated the same as white people. We just came up with that.

Of course, some of us are progressing faster than others. When it comes to marijuana, I think it's ridiculous to live in a country that espouses freedom, liberty and equality, yet won't follow through on a philosophy that says: "If it's not hurting anybody or their property, you can do any goddamn thing you want."

Do you have a favorite stoner comedy?

The Big Lebowski is just about my favorite movie—to me, it takes the stoner comedy to a more profound level. I find it just as funny completely straight.

What person, living or dead, would you most like to smoke herb with?

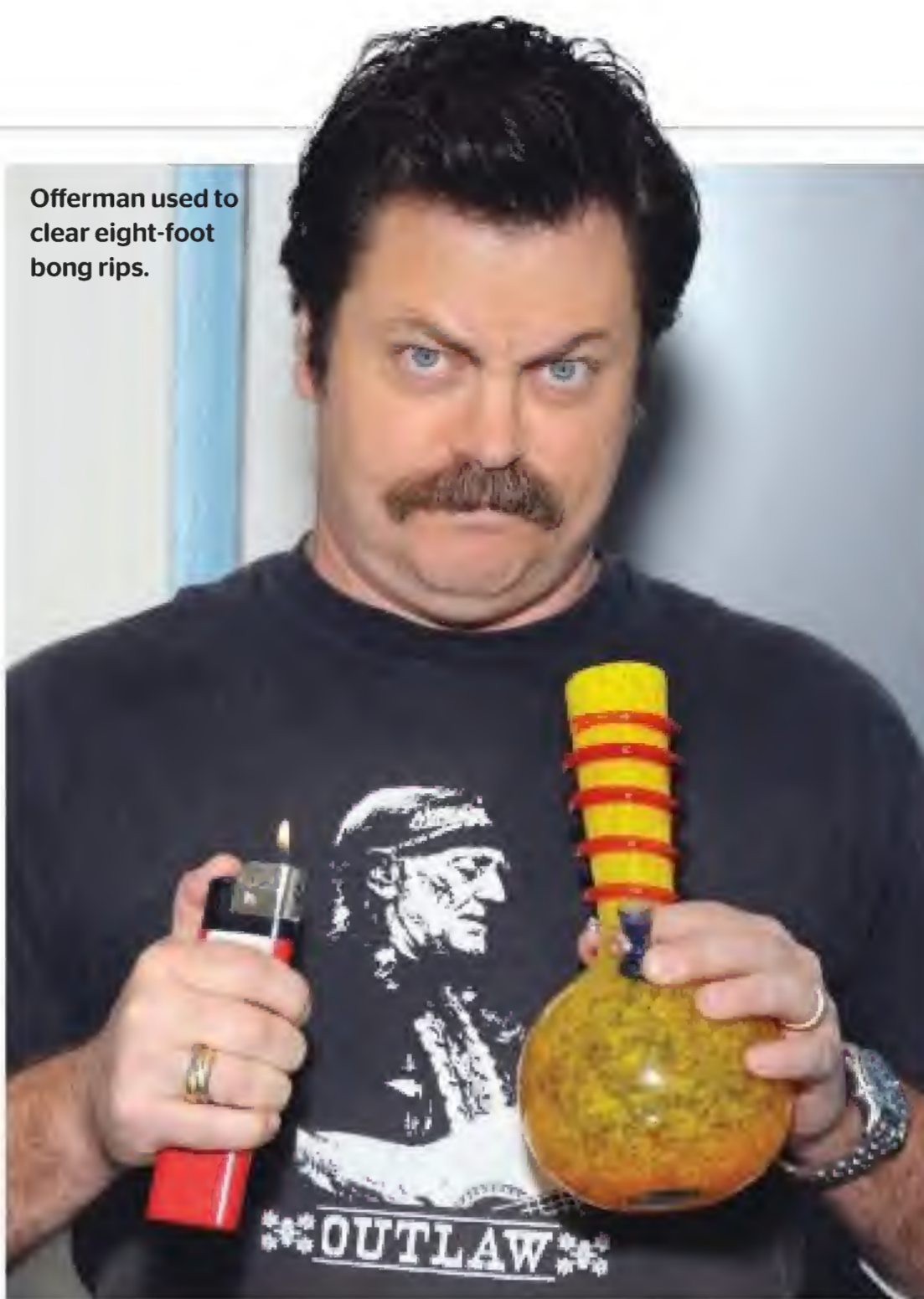
Oh, gosh ... Thomas Jefferson comes to mind. I like a lot of his agrarian ideas, and I think it's unfortunate that our nation has veered away from his suggestions. I'd love to take a walk on his back 40 and hear what he had to say over a nice bowl of hemp.

Do you have a favorite marijuana strain ... something worthy of sharing with one of the Founding Fathers?

I've sampled a lot of amazing varieties, but I usually get told the name of it just before we smoke—and then by the time we're done, it's all I can do to remember the name of the guy who loaded the bowl, never mind the weed. So, basically, if we're both here—wherever that is—whatever you've got is going to be just great with me.

Your co-star on *Parks and Recreation*, Amy Poehler, once performed at the High Times Cannabis Cup, an event

Offerman used to clear eight-foot bong rips.



"When I first came to California in my twenties and ran into people who grew their own weed, I thought: 'This is just like that shit I read about in High Times!'"

dedicated to naming the best weed in the world ...

Yes, she speaks very highly of that experience.

Ever been to Amsterdam?

Just once. Or maybe twice [*laughs*] ... they tell me I had a very good time. It was such a beautiful city, so picturesque on its own. But then you have a taste of some fine hash, and the canals grow even more gorgeous.

What's the connection between marijuana and facial hair?

That's an interesting question—one I have not considered before now. I certainly vastly prefer smoking a bowl with a beard to doing so while clean-shaven. I don't know what it is on an elemental level, but a beard in general evokes hedonism. It's a more lush personal grooming style. It's more comfortable and cozy; it's less sharp and angular and businesslike. For lack of

a better phrase, I feel like a beard is more Hobbit-like, even though Hobbits themselves are clean-shaven. There's something indulgent about a big, bushy beard that goes hand in hand with smoking long-bottom leaf out of your pipe.

Do you miss what you called the "dirt weed" that you enjoyed back in college, or are you into the more pristine modern buds here in Southern California?

Yes and yes [*laughs*]. I guess I didn't know any better when I started smoking in the late '80s. And anyway, it couldn't have been *that* bad, because we got incredibly high.

My friend Joe, who got me started, did such a beautiful job—because, as we all know, it can take a while when you're turning someone on for the first time for them to feel it. He sat me down with this pipe of his and said, "You're going to cough, but you have to take

these huge hits, and it's going to take like four or five bowls." He made me keep smoking until there was no question as to its efficacy. So yes, I'm fairly nostalgic for the stuff we used to get back then. I'm guessing it came from Mexico. I was once offered the chance to make a run down to Mexico to pick some up, but I declined.

Meanwhile, I've been astonished over the course of my 20-something years of pot smoking by the degree of improvement in the quality. And now, of course, I reside in a state where they've been perfecting their cultivation techniques for decades. When I first came to California in my twenties and ran into people who grew their own weed, I just didn't know what to think. I felt like I had stepped through the looking glass. I thought: "This is just like that shit I read about in *High Times*!"

Were you a regular reader?

The only periodical I've managed to stick with throughout my life is *Fine Woodworking*. That's my jam, as they say. But my tribe back in college, we subscribed to *High Times*, *Fangoria* and a handful of other fun, weirdo magazines. Each person would subscribe to one, and then we would share them all. And I can remember that we used to freak out at the centerfolds of unbelievable buds. And then it just blew my mind to move out to California and discover that it was all real! We always thought that it must have been the *High Times* art department making them look so sticky and purple.

Also, more seriously, I grew up in a very conservative small town, and the fact that there could actually be a magazine like that was unfathomable to me.

Now that you're going to be featured in *High Times*, is there anything you'd like to say to those guys you used



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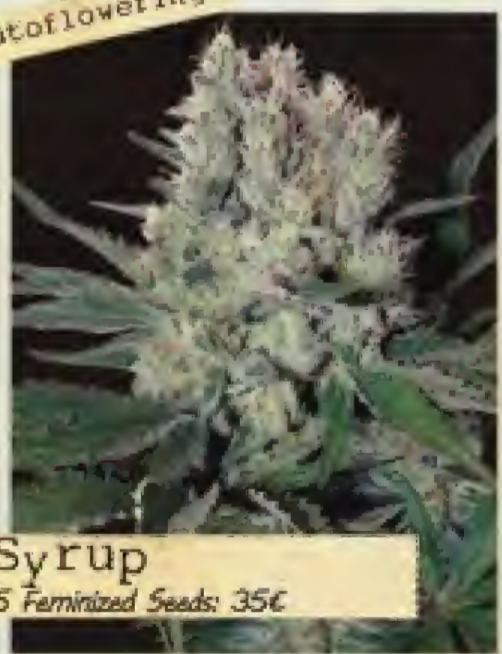
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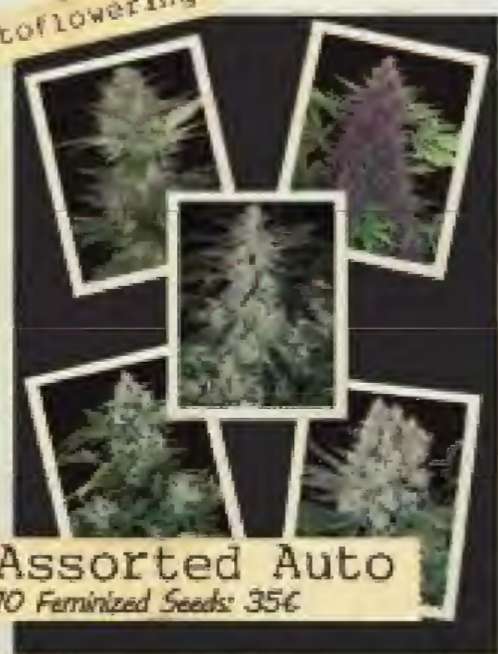
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to share a subscription with?

This is a fucking honor. I've done magazine interviews before, but this is the first time I've frantically emailed 12 of my friends and said, "I've finally made it!" So yeah, I'd love to send a shout-out to my original early tribe, who took me under their resin-stained wings and taught me how to smoke out of an apple: Joey Java, Ragsdale, Pee-Pee, Hortatsos, Tatro, Prescher, Flanigan, Falcon-Smoker, Goliath and all the rest ... Many of us went on to become Chicago's Defiant Theatre and tickle dozens of people with our high-energy japers and ribaldry. I can honestly say that landing in *High Times* was beyond our wildest dreams, so I think I can consider this the peak.

Thanks, pot! ✨

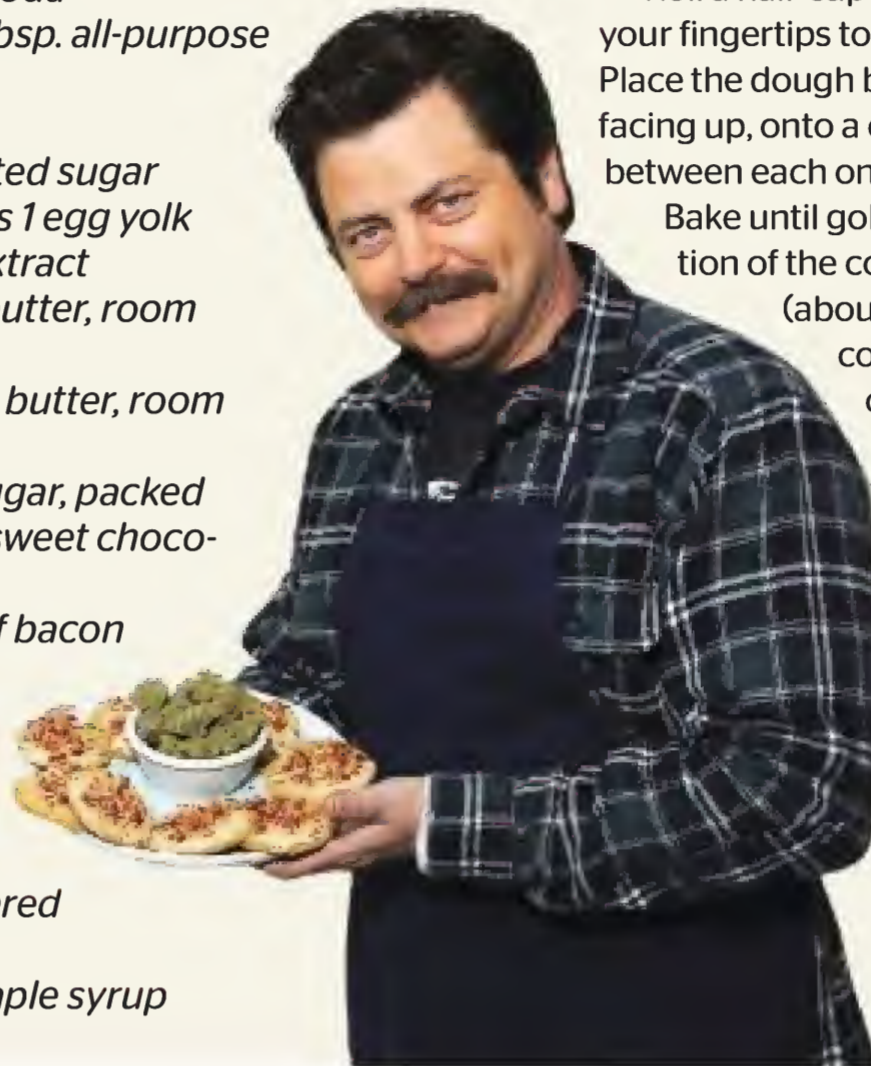
Offerman and his wife blaze bong. Watch hightimes.com/offerman.



Maple Bacon Ganja Chocolate Chip Cookies

A new recipe from the author of *The Official High Times Cannabis Cookbook* in honor of Nick Offerman, Ron Swanson and all the other bacon lovers of the world.

- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 cups plus 2 tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg plus 1 egg yolk
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 6 tbsp. cannabutter, room temperature
- 6 tbsp. regular butter, room temperature
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 lb. package of bacon strips, cooked until very crispy and cut into small bits
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tbsp. pure maple syrup



Preheat the oven to 325°F and adjust the oven racks to the upper and lower-middle positions. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper.

Whisk together the dry ingredients in a medium bowl and set aside. Mix the butter and sugars in an electric mixer until thoroughly combined, then beat in the egg, yolk and vanilla. Add the dry ingredients and beat at low speed just until combined. Stir in 1 cup of chocolate chips and bacon bits.

Roll a half-cup of dough into a ball, then use your fingertips to divide the ball into two halves. Place the dough balls, with their rough surfaces facing up, onto a cookie sheet, leaving room between each one.

Bake until golden brown, reversing the position of the cookie sheets halfway through (about 11 to 14 minutes). Remove the cookies from the oven. When you can lift one without breaking it, transfer them to a wire rack to cool.

Glaze

In a small bowl, add 1 tablespoon of maple syrup to the powdered sugar and whisk until the glaze has a drizzling consistency. Glaze the tops of the cookies and then sprinkle with the remaining bacon bits.

Recipe adapted from the Baker Chick, the-baker-chick.com.



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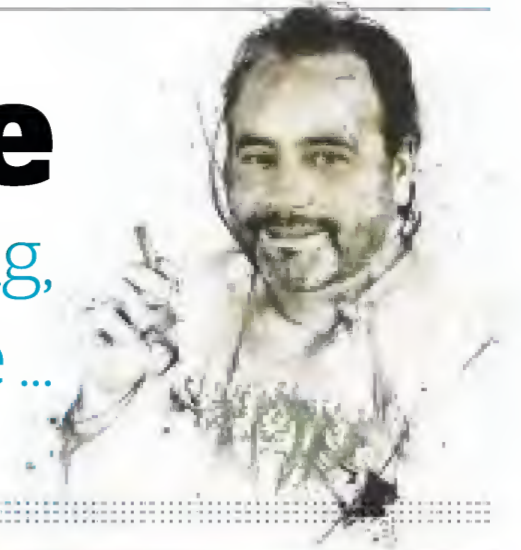
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Spider mites have done extensive damage to this leaf of FaceWreck x GhostTrain Haze.

SUBJECT: **Hibernating Mites**

FROM: **Freedom Fighter**

Hi! I have two questions. I suffered a spider-mite infestation and had to shut down and clean out my growroom. New paint and flooring was in order anyway, so I bit the bullet and remodeled. I know these little monsters can be hard to get rid of. If I have no other plant life in the house, how long can they hold out before I can deem the house safe to try again? Also, is there any means of "sterilizing" your dirt to rid it of potential bug problems before planting? Thanks in advance, and hats off to the ladies and gents at your magazine for an excellent publication that I look forward to every month!

Dear FF,
Glad you enjoy the magazine! A spider mite's lifespan is generally about 10 to 20 days or so. Hotter and drier conditions can increase their ability to reproduce and quicken their lifespan as well. Many generations can be produced even over the course of one grow cycle. The damn things are practically born pregnant!

Female mites hibernate outdoors during winter in plant debris, soil or other hiding places. If your room has been kept warm to hot (over 70°F) for more than two months and you've seen no sign of mites, the chances are good that no females or eggs are present. You should take every precaution, though, and

thoroughly wash all floors, walls and ceiling surfaces with a diluted bleach solution. (A new mop works well for this technique.) Then carefully monitor your new plant growth in order to ensure that the mites haven't returned.

It's a good thing you don't have any other houseplants in the area, as that would make a great place for them to rest and lay eggs in preparation for another fancy feast on your pot plants in the future. As for sterilizing your new soil, you can fill up turkey bags with soil mix and a little water and then bake it at 170°F for 30 minutes. Let it cool and it's ready to use, free of both pathogens and insects.

Danko Tip: If water starts pooling atop your soil mix, add a drop of natural dishwashing liquid to the nutrient solution for better absorption.



Properly dried nuggets burn perfectly and taste fantastic.

SUBJECT: **Slow Dry**

FROM: **The Green Flash**

🌱 I live on the leeward (dry) coast of a small Hawaiian island. I grow outdoors, and my question is on drying. I cannot use air-conditioning where I live, and the drying always finishes in four to five days. This seems like too fast of a dry, and my buds don't seem to sweat when they go into the jars to cure. Any suggestions on slowing down the dry without AC?

Dear TGF,
The best thing you could do is to get yourself an electric humidifier. This will slow down the drying process significantly and can be set to a specific humidity level if needed. If all appliances are out of the question, there are other ways

to raise the humidity in your drying area, but most are more labor-intensive. Heating up a pot of water to simmering will help, but you need to replenish the water frequently if you have a large drying area. Another alternative is to keep a container filled with water and a fan blowing over it. These are short-term solutions, though, so the humidifier is your best bet. You can find them for under \$50 at most hardware stores or home-supply warehouses.

SUBJECT: **Dragon Claws?**

FROM: **LiGrim**

🌱 The top leaves of my plant are turning into dragon claws. What am I doing wrong?

Dear LiGrim,

Taco-shaped or “dragon claw”-style leaves are a sure sign of overwatering. Let your growing medium dry out for several days and try not to water it if the medium is still wet or moist. Allow it to become dry (but not for a prolonged period) between waterings. Also, never let your pots sit in stagnant water for long periods. If you follow these tips, you should soon see signs of recovery in the new leaf growth.

SUBJECT: **Vegetative to Flowering Switch**

FROM: **Leprechaun**

🌱 I wanted to know how long to keep my plants under the light for start-up and vegetation and stretching. I have my plants on a timer that's set for 18 hours of light. Do I need to do a 24-hour cycle for start-up and stretching my plants? I just bought an LED lamp, and I need to know the right cycle for my plants. I don't want them to grow 4 or 5 inches and then want to flower, so the timing is real important to me right now. for any help, and aloha!

Dear Leprechaun,
For the vegetative stage, I recommend 18 to 20 hours of light per 24-hour period. I don't recommend keeping the lights on for 24 hours straight during this time, because cannabis plants need a few hours of darkness to rest up and build plant tissues with the sugars stored during the bright period. Once you decide to induce flowering, you need to set your timer so that the lights are on for 12 hours and off for the other 12.

It's important never to interrupt the dark cycle with any light at all, even briefly, in order to avoid light contamination or leaks that can lead to hermaphrodites or confused plants that revert back to their vegetative stage. It's also vital to remember that your plants will continue to grow and stretch for at least a couple of weeks after flowering is induced. This means you should plan for enough vertical space between your lighting and plant tops to allow them to fill out.

Different strains stretch at different rates, so you'll need to give *sativas* more room to grow out than *indicas*. Remember, indoor growers can control when their plants begin to flower, so take advantage of that and let them get nice and big before you induce the budding stage.

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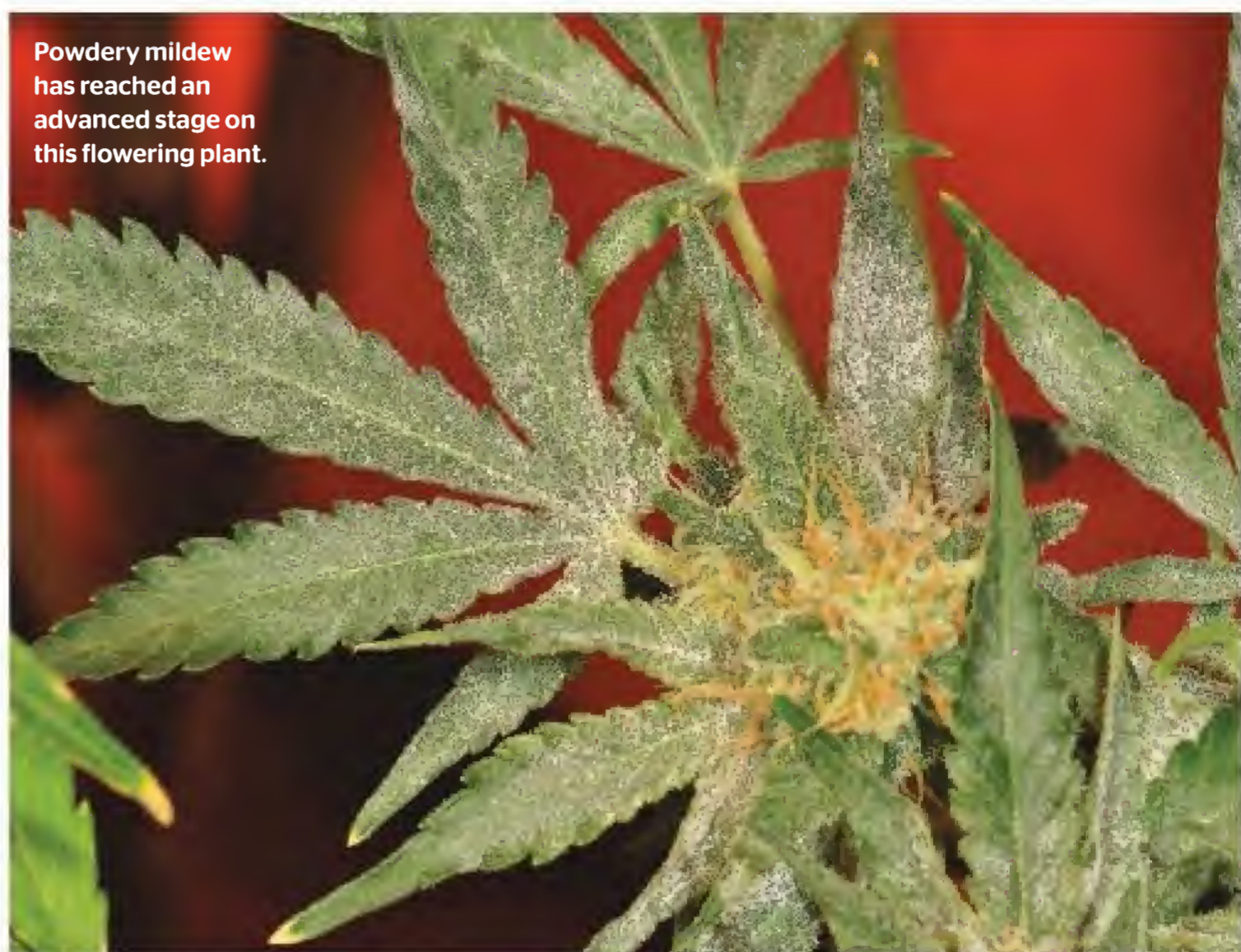
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Danko Tip: Yellowing leaves are a sign of underfeeding or pH imbalance, while burned leaf tips are a sign of overfertilization.



Powdery mildew has reached an advanced stage on this flowering plant.

SUBJECT: **Spraying Pot**

FROM: **Nancy L.G.**

🌱 I have a question for you. Someone told me to take some pot—like about a quarter-ounce—and spray it with water in a jar, because then it would grow mold and increase the THC level. Can you verify this?

Dear Nancy,
That person is 100 percent wrong! Under no circumstances should you spray water on pot in a jar. It will cause the bud to mold, but that's not a good thing at all. Mold will most certainly not increase the THC level, and as a matter of fact, it can cause serious health problems. All people—and particularly those with compromised immune systems—should never smoke or vaporize cannabis that has any signs of mold. This is a great reason not to believe everything you hear, and a lesson to those who spread mistruths as wisdom.

SUBJECT: **Vertical or Horizontal Lighting?**

FROM: **Dillinger**

🌱 I wanted to start by saying how much the magazine has meant and done for me over the years. Thanks so much for all the great tips, pics and info. I have actually dreamed of working for *High Times* since I was a kid. I was hurt at work back in January 2011, so I'm actually going to apply and

try to live the dream like all of you do.

I have a question about lighting. I've been growing for 15 years using horizontal bulbs in air-cooled reflectors with great results, but more and more videos and articles I've seen show grows using vertically hanging bulbs. Have I missed the boat? Should I be running both vertical and horizontal lights? What about the new LED lamps? They are super-expensive, but are they worth it (no more fighting the heat and high AC bills)? If you had no limits on your income, would you run these expensive LEDs and just veg your cuttings under T5s? I know I'm asking a bunch of questions, but I want to keep up with the technology and grow the best product possible.

PS: If you're near Cali, check out the Thin Mint Girl Scout Cookies from the Imedz collective in San Jose. They're the best ever, and I've tried everything. The other great part is that they sell the cuttings from the exact pheno the meds come from.

Dear Dillinger,
Good luck with your application! We don't hire often, and my best recommendation to you is to start off freelancing or writing "on spec." Our submission guidelines are on our website, and we're always looking for talented writers with useful information for our readers. Submitting good high-resolution photos is a plus as well.

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LEDs can produce big buds but work better as supplemental lighting for the time being.

As for lighting, the horizontal bulbs you're using are perfectly fine for growing great cannabis. Vertical bulbs work great if you plan to grow huge plants and wish to supplement your garden with side lighting, but horizontal lights are still the setup of choice for large-scale pot growing. The big advantage, especially with the air-cooled reflectors you're using, is being able to vent the heat produced directly from the bulb (and also being able to aim the light directly downward).

Vertical lighting works great in conjunction with horizontals, but it does create added heat that must be dealt with one way or another. Plants definitely benefit from the extra light, and you're able to use all of the light produced by the bulb efficiently—but keep in mind that the plants must be massive for verticals to do their job.

LEDs are decent for supplemental lighting purposes, but I wouldn't go replacing your high-intensity discharge (HID) lights just yet. As you mentioned, LEDs are still very pricey, and it will take some time before they can completely replace HID's in performance. You are wise to keep your eye on emerging technologies, though, and we will always keep you posted on new developments here in *HT*.

Thanks for your tip on the Thin Mint Girl Scout Cookies. That's a wonderful strain, and I included a version of it in my Top 10 Strains of 2012 (Dec. '12, *HT*). 🌿

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
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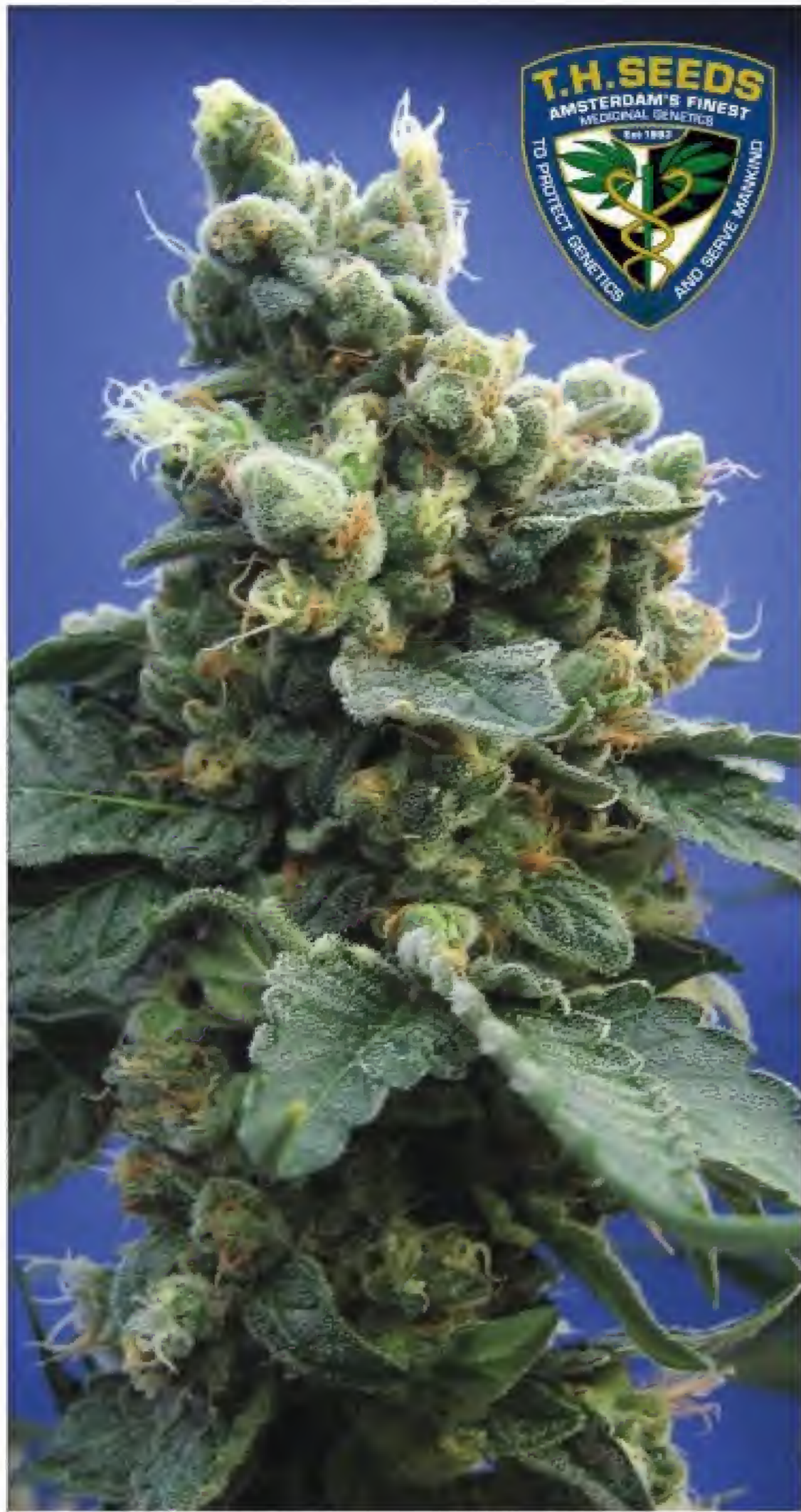
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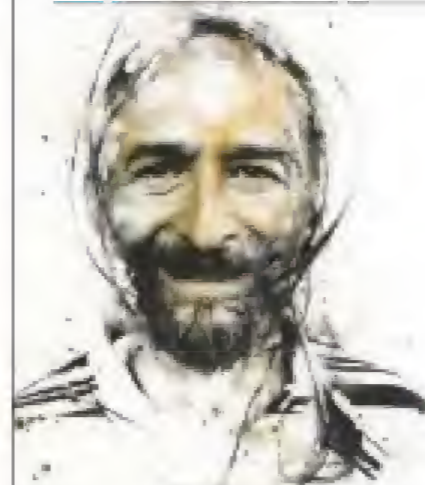
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Cannabis Fact-Finding

Pot and heroin and pot heroines.

Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

I have six friends who quit heroin thanks to the plant. Why isn't there a formal treatment program that uses this approach?

William Lee

Hi William,
At least two studies support the idea that cannabis has the potential to help people stop using drugs that have serious negative consequences (check out informalhealthcare.com). Nevertheless, treatments that substitute one substance for another are generally frowned upon. For example, methadone maintenance is arguably the most effective treatment for opiate abusers, but it was mired in controversy for decades. Our favorite plant probably wouldn't help every addict on earth—few treatments do. But we certainly deserve to have the research done in order to find out.

Why are there no stoner flicks that focus on women?

Darla R.

Hi Darla,
The politics and economics of the film business are quite complicated. But perhaps you're dismissing the success of *Weeds*, a multiseason TV show that focuses on marijuana and has a female protagonist. I think a movie along those lines can't be far behind, though I doubt it will be the tale of two women on a search for munchies. I hope aspiring screenwriters are hard at work on their female stoner flick right now.



I hope aspiring screenwriters are hard at work on their female stoner flick right now.

Can marijuana fight hardening of the arteries?

R. Dahl

Hi R.,
In a research study, a small dose of THC did slow the development of cholesterol-related lesions in the arteries of mice. The effect definitely involved the CB2 receptor, which impacts the way our immune systems handle inflammation. However, I can't recommend cannabis as a cholesterol fighter. If the health benefits do generalize from mice to humans, they're probably nowhere near as significant as eating right, exercising regularly and staying rested. But if you've got that routine down, a little help from the plant certainly wouldn't hurt. ✨

Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.

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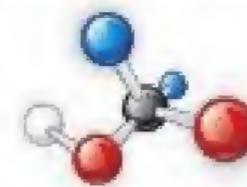
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Remembering the Last Great Outlaw

High Times founder Tom Forçade

I moved to New York City at the end of 1978, having just spent six years obtaining a couple of college degrees. Even though I started publishing my own underground newspaper in 1968 and hitchhiked across North America as a teen, I'd lost all contact with my counterculture roots by the time I arrived in the Big Apple. In fact, *High Times* was a magazine that my younger sister read, though I did enjoy some of the stories when I discovered the stash hidden in her bedroom, especially a lengthy treatise on sniffing glue.

I had no idea there was a single person who was the founding genius behind *High Times*, or that this man had committed suicide, an event that was not covered by the mainstream press.

Later I learned the real story of Tom Forçade, the visionary founder of *High Times*. Tom was the son of pioneers who'd settled the West after a long cattle drive to southern Arizona. He got started running kilos out of Mexico but quickly graduated to planes and boats and bigger adventures. He believed deeply in the counterculture as a spiritual revolution, with marijuana as its sacrament. Tom started a commune and published a review of the best of the underground press, *Orpheus*, but was soon driving a psychedelic bus to New York so that he could become a player on a bigger stage.

He rode into the city like someone straight out of a Clint Eastwood western, complete with slouch hat and handlebar mustache. At the time, Tom looked to John Sinclair as his primary mentor, but in 1969 Sinclair was sentenced to 10 years in prison for *giving away* two joints to an undercover cop. Like Sinclair, Tom planned to seize the cultural moment by managing a revolutionary rock band to commercial success. He was always on the lookout for potential superstars in the rough and eventually settled on David Peel.

Tom's first political act was throwing a pie during a congressional investigation into pornography. (In fact, he launched the whole pie-throwing movement.) He

also helped promote Woodstock and went on the road disrupting a Warner Bros. movie starring Wavy Gravy that was being filmed the summer after Woodstock, when Warners made its play to capture the counterculture's center of energy (an attempt that failed miserably). Tom wrote an obscure book about the whole adventure and dedicated it to Wavy, admitting that he'd grown fond of the latter's nonviolent style.

Eventually, Tom forced a showdown with the Yippies at the Republican National Convention in Miami in 1972. The FBI had launched a very successful (and very secret) disinfo campaign to brand him as a snitch, and the Feds also arrested him for possession of a pipe bomb. The subsequent trial lingered for months, though in today's world, Tom would have been taken straight to Guantánamo and had his mind turned inside out with the latest torture techniques.

After launching *High Times* two years later, in 1974, Tom suddenly captured an important center of energy himself, virtually taking over the entire underground press and transforming himself into a mythic character in the process. *High Times* was an instant runaway success, and many of Tom's other ideas were pure genius, including jumping on the punk movement and producing the first documentary about the Sex Pistols' arrival in the USA.

I've spent years researching Tom's story, and now I'm putting the final touches on an e-book about him titled *The Last Great Outlaw*, written by myself and Albert Goldman, who was very close to Tom. Unfortunately, Goldman also introduced Tom to Chic Eder, who really *was* a snitch and worked with the FBI to bring Tom down.

The book will be available through *Smashwords.com*, but you can also find it easily in the iTunes bookstore or the Nook store. I plan to release a number of e-books this year via Smashwords, so if you haven't converted to tablet reading yet, now is a good time to start! ✨

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What a Rush

Getting an album autographed by rock legends Rush proves more difficult than anticipated.

As a freshman in high school, the very first song I learned to play in guitar class was a rocking riff-fest called “Bastille Day.” I wasn’t yet familiar with Rush’s music, but after a few months of intensive, weed-drenched vinyl sessions at my best friend Paul’s place, they fast became one of my favorite bands of all time.

So when my colleague David “Bean” Bienenstock announced at an editorial meeting early last year that he’d lined up an interview with Rush’s guitarist, Alex Lifeson, I asked him to do me a solid by requesting that Lifeson autograph two of my original albums (*2112* and *Hemispheres*)—one for me and one as a birthday gift for Paul. I sent Bean the albums, he got them signed and he FedEx’d them right back to me. Awesome—except that I’d left for LA the day the package shipped, and when I returned to the office, it was nowhere to be found.

I searched high and low, interrogated the entire staff and a slew of FedEx employees, but it was no use. I was heartbroken, and Bean seemed almost as bummed as me. So when he learned that Rush’s Clockwork Angels tour would be rolling through my area in October, he called Alex and arranged a pair of 10th-row tickets for me, as well as passes to the pre-show meet-and-greet. Obviously, I invited Paul as my plus-one.

We arrived at Newark’s Prudential Center an hour before showtime and waited patiently with the other VIPs until summoned. Security led us through several sets of doors, then lined us up along a hallway next to a Clockwork Angels backdrop and laid down the rules.

“When the band comes out, each group will have two minutes,” decreed the security guard. “You will step up, shake hands and pose for your photo. If you have a gift for the band, give it to them and move on. We will take two shots that will be sent to you afterward. There are no photos allowed

with personal cameras, and the band will not be signing anything.”

Wait, what? Not signing anything?!? I’d ordered two new vinyls on eBay and waited all year ... hell, all my *life* ... for this moment, and now we were being *rushed* (pardon the pun) through it? This would not do. I flashed the guard my business card and explained my situation. His suggestion was to go to the back of the line while he spoke with the band’s road



Alex Lifeson, Bobby, Paul and Geddy Lee backstage

manager. No sooner had we done so than the doors swung open and out strolled Lifeson and singer/bassist Geddy Lee; drummer Neil Peart, they informed us, wasn’t feeling well, but we were stoked regardless. As the line began to move, the road manager came over and I

once again related my story. Unfortunately, it had no impact—he still insisted the band wouldn’t sign the albums.

Finally, our turn arrived. I introduced myself to Alex, who appeared to be in a jolly mood and proved far more sympathetic to my tale.

“I know you can’t sign these now,” I implored him, exploiting security’s “gift” loophole, “but if I *give* them to you, could you maybe send them to me later?”

“Absolutely!” he replied, taking the records from me. “In fact, you can pick them up tomorrow at our hotel.”

We thanked him profusely, then walked past the scowling road manager into the arena to await their performance. And what a performance! Of the dozen-plus times Paul and I had gone to see Rush in the last two decades, we’d never seen them play like *that*. It was an evening neither of us will ever forget.

The next day, I *rushed* over to the Ritz Carlton, where my albums were waiting at the concierge desk as promised, signed not just by Lifeson but the entire band. So to Geddy, Neil and Alex: Thank you, and congrats on that whole Rock and Roll Hall of Fame thing. And to Paul: Happy belated birthday, old friend. ✨



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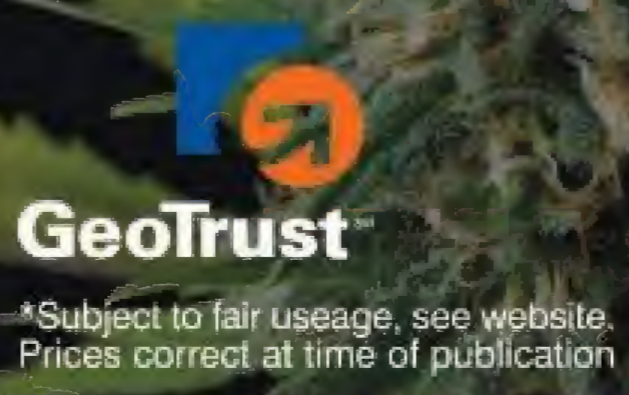
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What do you plan to do on 4/20?

Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. Visit norml.org.



April 20 is our official day to fuel the legalization process.

The answer to the question “Where will you be on 4/20?” is remarkably simple for cannabis consumers this year: You’ll either be in one of the 48 states where the possession and use of cannabis remains illegal for most people, or you’ll be in Colorado or Washington, the two states where voters were finally able to bring cannabis prohibition to an end this past election cycle.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of *High Times* readers don’t live in Colorado or Washington, where adult recreational use is now legal. So there’s no better day on the calendar to get the message out

to the rest of the country (and the world) about cannabis’ acceptability and the need to reform our misguided pot-prohibition laws.

This year, blessedly, April 20 falls on a Saturday, and the political organizing opportunities are too great to pass up. Except for those people who need to be at work on this day, cannabis consumers, advocates and activists need to coordinate our organizing efforts at the local and regional levels.

Our job is to attract mass-media attention to well-planned 4/20-related events, such as concerts, parades and

so-called smoke-ins, and blend our voices into one unified message: *We want to be as free, equal and responsible as the citizens of Colorado and Washington. Cannabis consumers are not criminals. Ending pot prohibition means that billions of dollars in new tax revenues can be raised every year. Re-legalize cannabis now!*

But if you *are* lucky enough to reside in either Colorado or Washington—or have moved to one of these states recently in order to put yourself out of legal danger—your 4/20 this year will be all about celebrating the end of nearly eight decades of prohibition.

Last year on 4/20, one of the biggest pot rallies in Denver’s history took place in City Park. This year, the rally promises to be “the mother of all pot rallies,” outshining (and outsmoking) anything the cannabis community has seen before.

And, of course, *High Times* will be in Denver all weekend long hosting the third annual Medical Cannabis Cup in the Mile High City.

If you’re not forced to be watching the work clock on 4/20, this is *the* year to show your cannabis colors. Because April 20, 2013, will be truly unique—a time to both protest and celebrate! 🌿

Visit medcancup.com for info on the *High Times Medical Cannabis Cup*.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

by Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator

Colorado Dynamo

Betty Aldworth quickens the end of pot prohibition.

Raised in a family of social-justice advocates, Betty Aldworth attended countless protests as a child before starting her career as a volunteer leader with nonprofit groups in the Denver area, where she began to learn more about the issues surrounding medical cannabis and prohibition. Disgusted by what she found out regarding the federal

government’s ongoing war on pot, she went to work with others in Colorado to defend the state’s medical marijuana patents and program.

Seeing an opportunity to effect real change, Betty joined the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana in 2012, the group that would ultimately spearhead the effort to pass Amendment 64, Colorado’s legalization law. She became one of the campaign’s public faces, speaking out in media




interviews, organizing volunteers and appearing in promotional pieces for the initiative. Her efforts, along with those of countless volunteers, advocacy groups and average citizens, paid off last November, when Colorado legalized the adult use and sale of cannabis in the state.

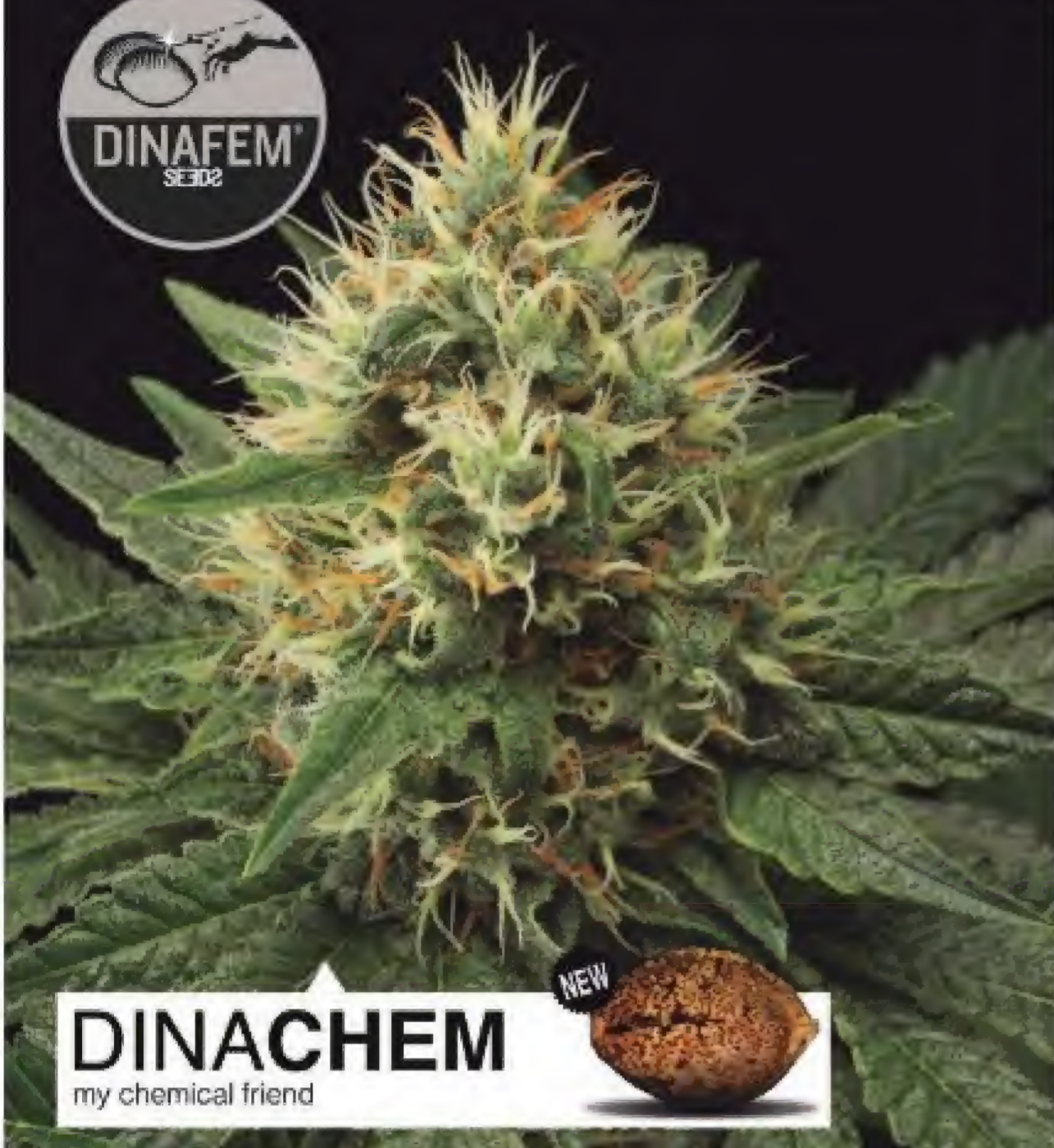
Betty has since made a smooth transition in the wake of the successful campaign: She now works with the National Cannabis Industry

Association, serving as its spokesperson and providing advice to cannabis businesses nationwide on creating educational programs.

Betty sees great things for marijuana-law reform on the horizon. “If we can keep the conversation focused on the injustices of prohibition, the safety of regulated markets and the absurdity of marijuana being illegal while alcohol is legal,” she says, “we’ll see cannabis policies shifting at a far more rapid pace than the most optimistic among us had imagined.”


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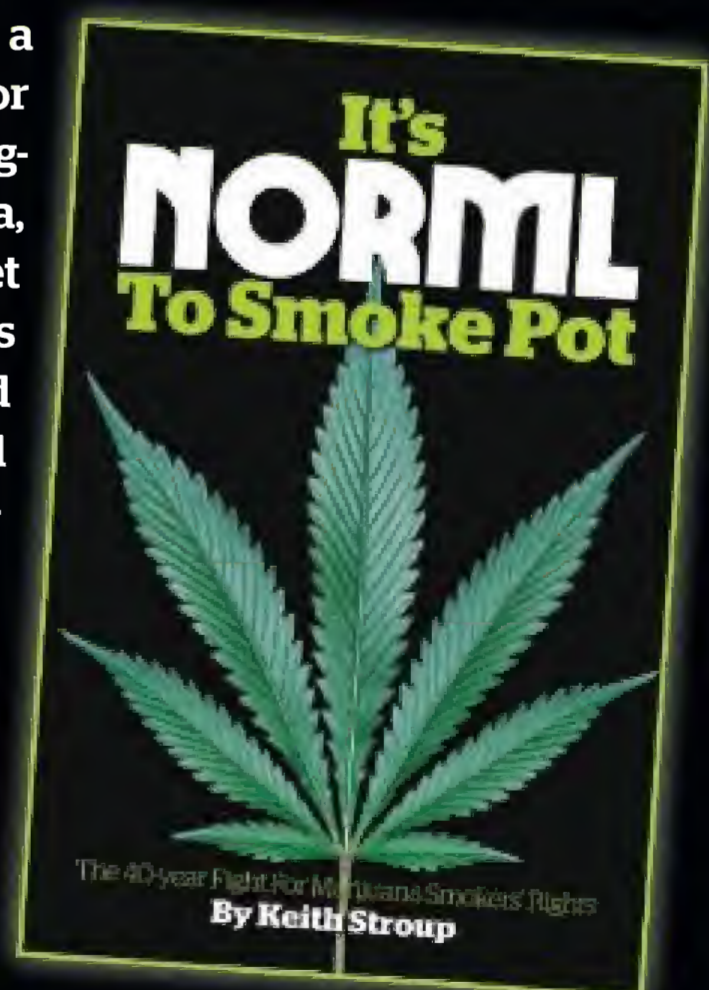


In 1970, Keith Stroup had the visionary idea to start a non-profit organization in Washington DC to fight for marijuana smokers' rights. Today, NORML is the biggest marijuana advocacy organization in America, with chapters across the country. But how did it get from there to here? For the first time, Keith Stroup tells the whole story—the good and the bad, the high and the low, the strange and the NORML. Informative and at times hilarious, **It's NORML To Smoke Pot** is a must-read for cannabis fans everywhere.

A terrific review of the marijuana legalization movement over the last forty years in America, from the person who has been at the center of it all, NORML Founder Keith Stroup. —**Willie Nelson**

As America is nearing ever closer to ending the prohibition on marijuana, the story of that fight is the story of NORML. And the story of NORML is the story of its founder, Keith Stroup. Keith is a lawyer who has dedicated his career to defending an ideal: that the mature adult use of marijuana is a civil liberty. If you believe in the principle of civil liberties, then Keith Stroup is a true American hero. Read this book and you'll see why.

—**Rick Steves, travel writer, public television producer and host**



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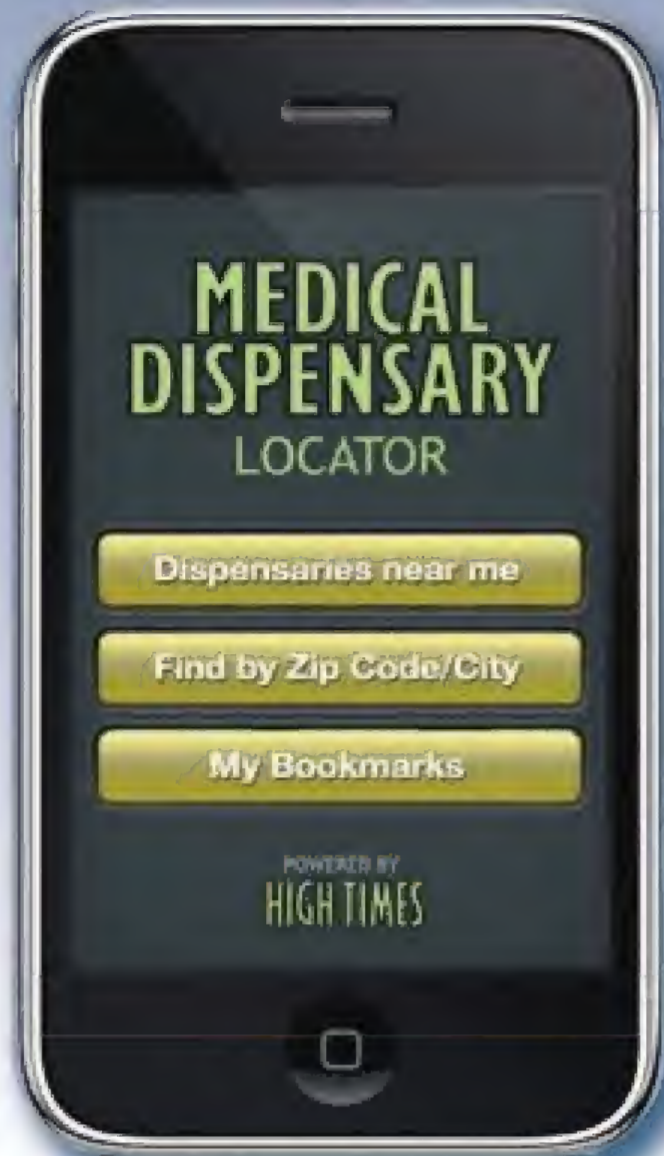
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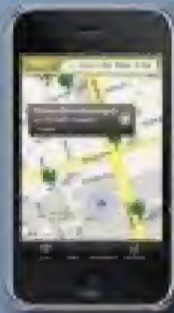
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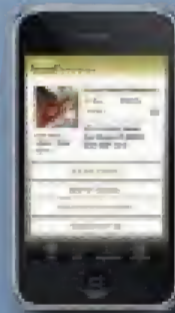
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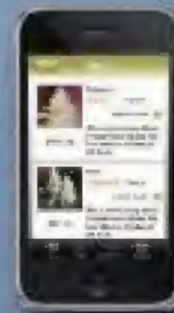
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CLOSE-UP OF THE MONTH

Sticky Icky

 This is my TGA Plushberry (Black Cherry Soda x Space Queen), an *indica*-dominant big-yield pheno. These girls were grown veganically in California with love. They smell like nothing I have ever produced before. Props to Subcool and the TGA crew for their amazing genetics. *Cann Comm*



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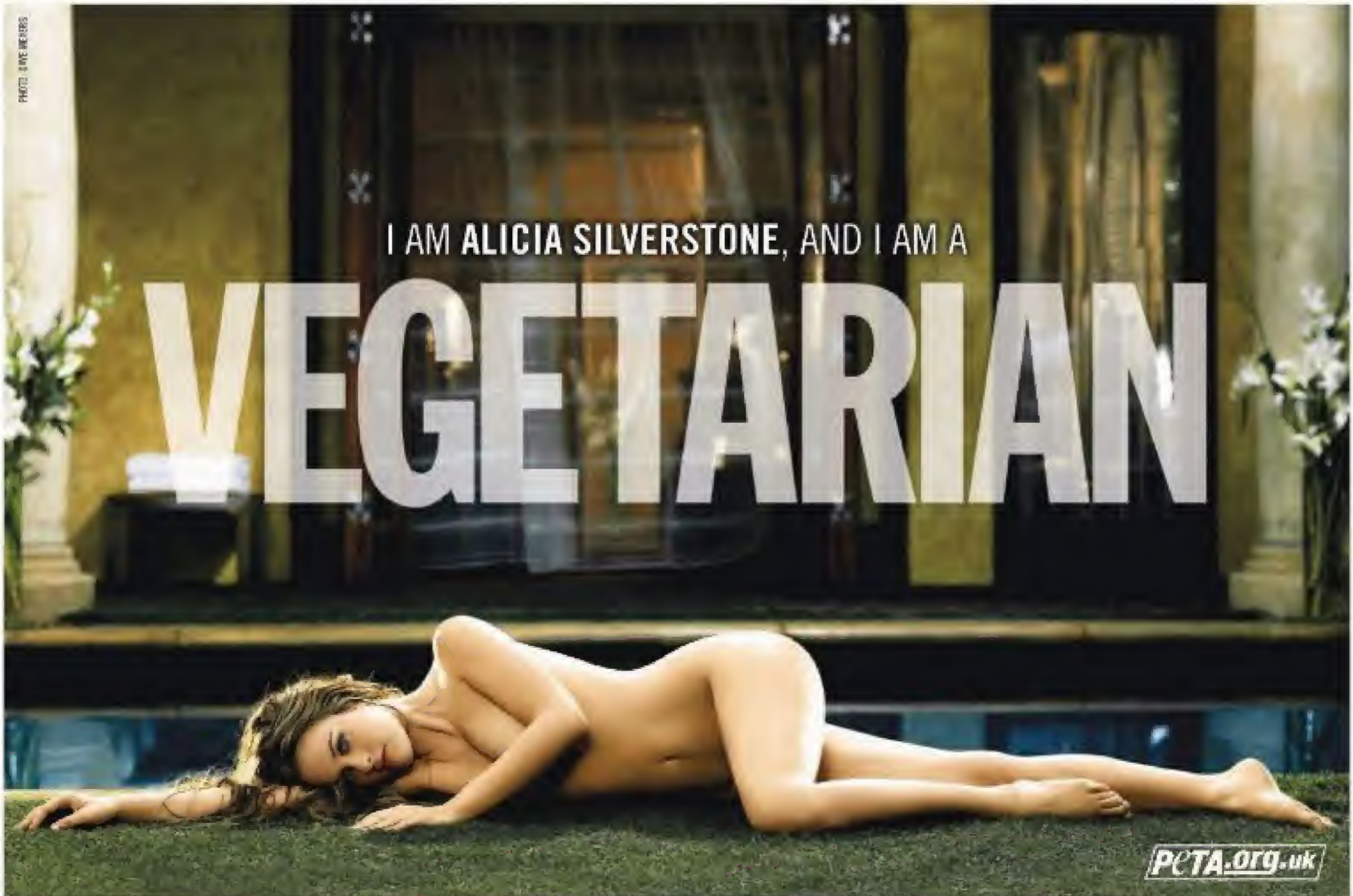
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FLOWER OF THE MONTH


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GARDEN OF THE MONTH

Chunky Monkey

 The Pineapple Chunk came out nice and green and very potent in both the smell and the smoke. Some of my favorite buds for a relaxing evening on the couch. *Dr. Green Toke from the Detroit area*

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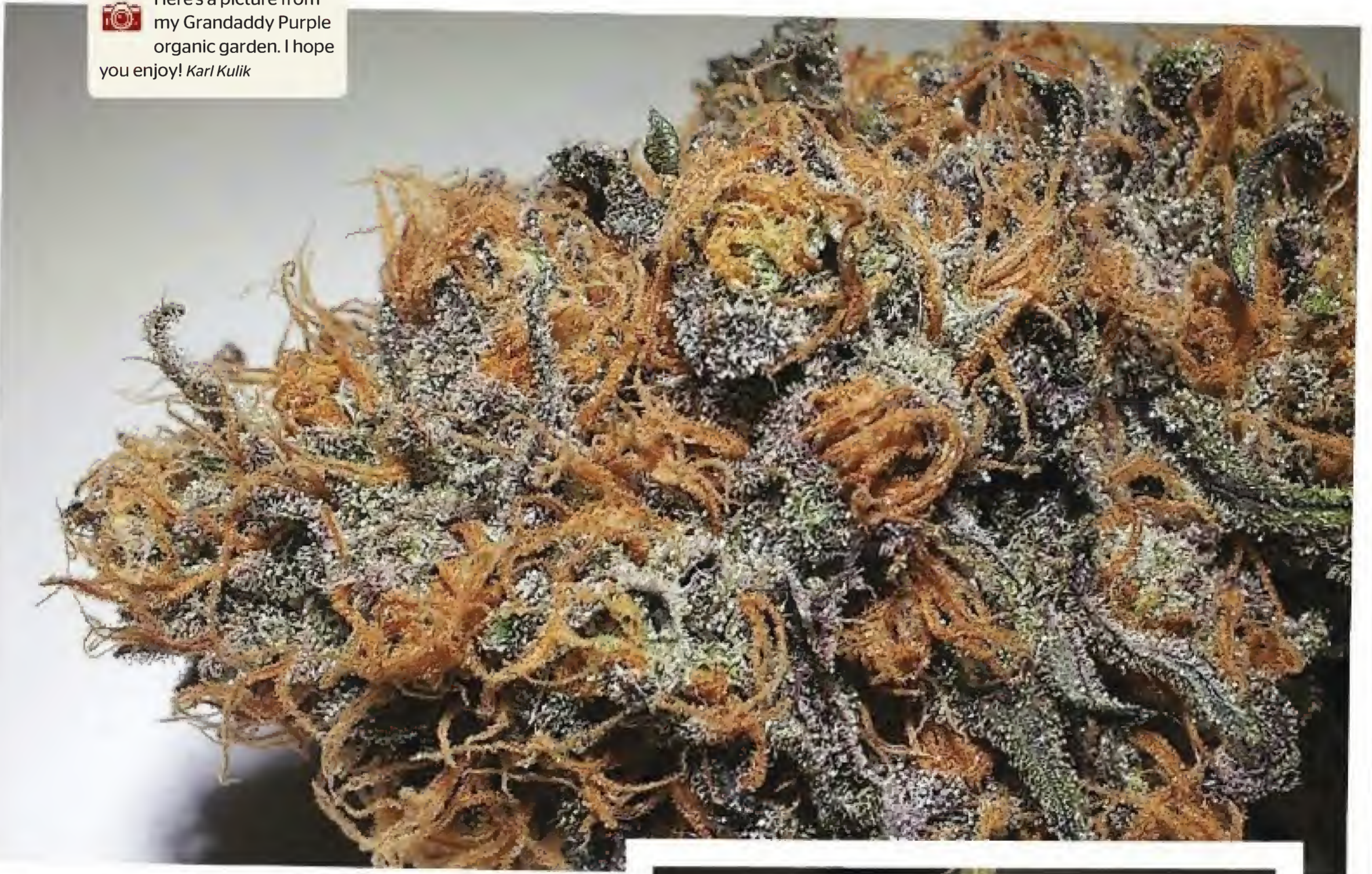
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HARVEST OF THE MONTH

Purple Heart

Here's a picture from my Granddaddy Purple organic garden. I hope you enjoy! *Karl Kulik*



GROWER OF THE MONTH

Riding That Train

The is K-Train from Green House Seeds that I received on behalf of Franco. I grew it hydroponically with Canna Nutrients. *Kamy Kaze*



NUG OF THE MONTH

Pull the Pin

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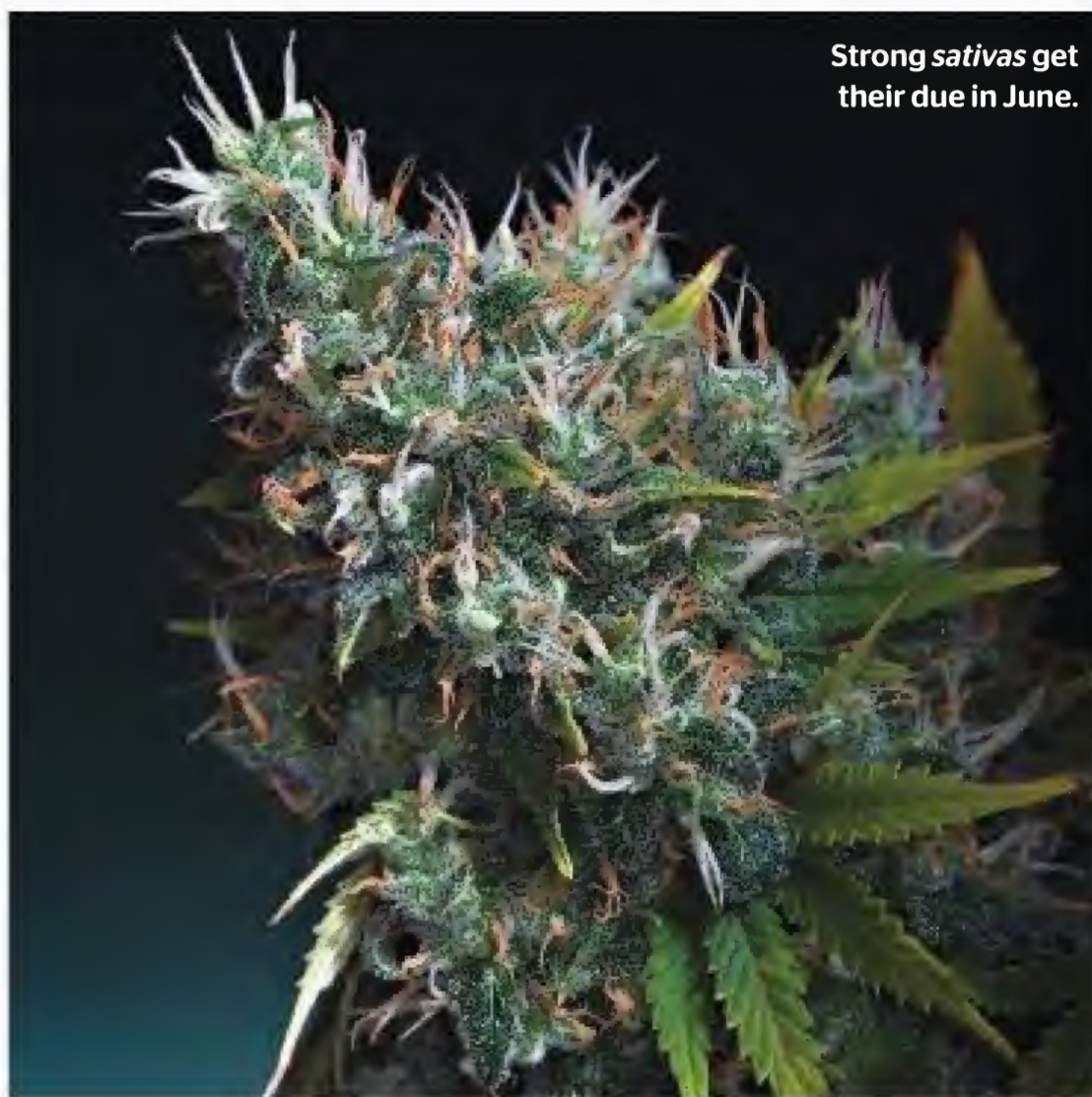
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► **The Strongest Strains on Earth**

With the end of 2012, five more *High Times* Cannabis Cups are on the books. Now it's time to review last year's potency levels as we list the strains topping the THC charts from Amsterdam to California—and everywhere in between!

► **Two Days in LA**

In February, the southern California cannabis community showcased the booming industry at the second High Times Medical Cannabis Cup in Los Angeles. The Game and Redman rocked the crowd and SoCal's best cannabis products kept spirits sky high!

► **Overgrowing Corporate Cannabis**

With legalization already the law of the land in two states, one of California's top medical cannabis growers is getting his operation ready to compete against Big Tobacco, Wall Street and a new breed of high-flying, well-funded pot entrepreneurs.

► **All About Adderall**

Adderall is one of the most heavily used controlled substances in the United States, frequently prescribed to grade-school children to treat ADD (attention deficit disorder). College students also rely on Adderall to get through their exams. But is it healthy? And how does it work? Find out in our next issue.

► **On the Road With Rick Steves**

A dedicated pot activist for more than a decade, Rick Steves played a major role in helping to pass pot legalization in Washington. The popular PBS host and travel guru discusses the bright green future of legal cannabis in his home state and around the world.


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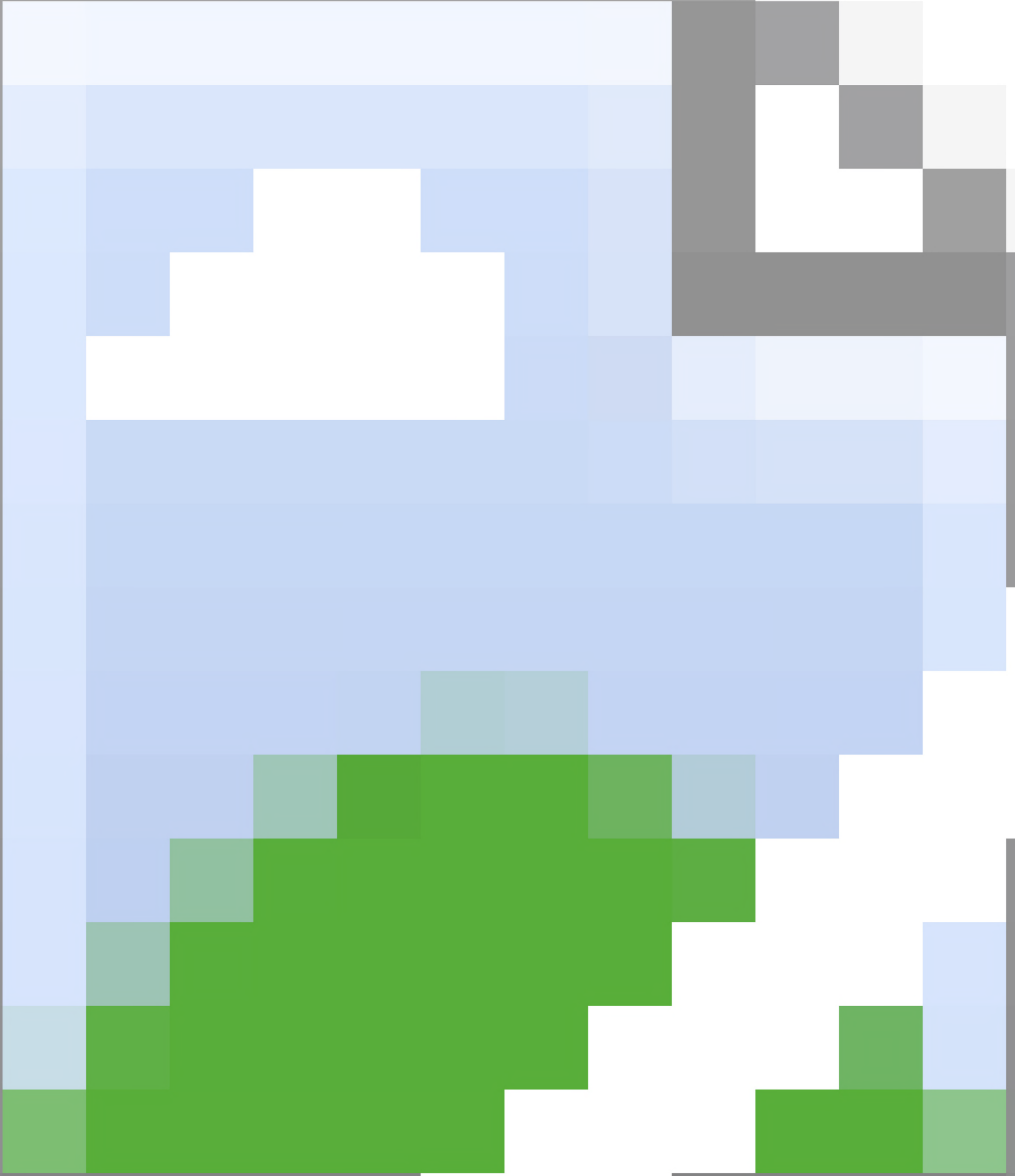
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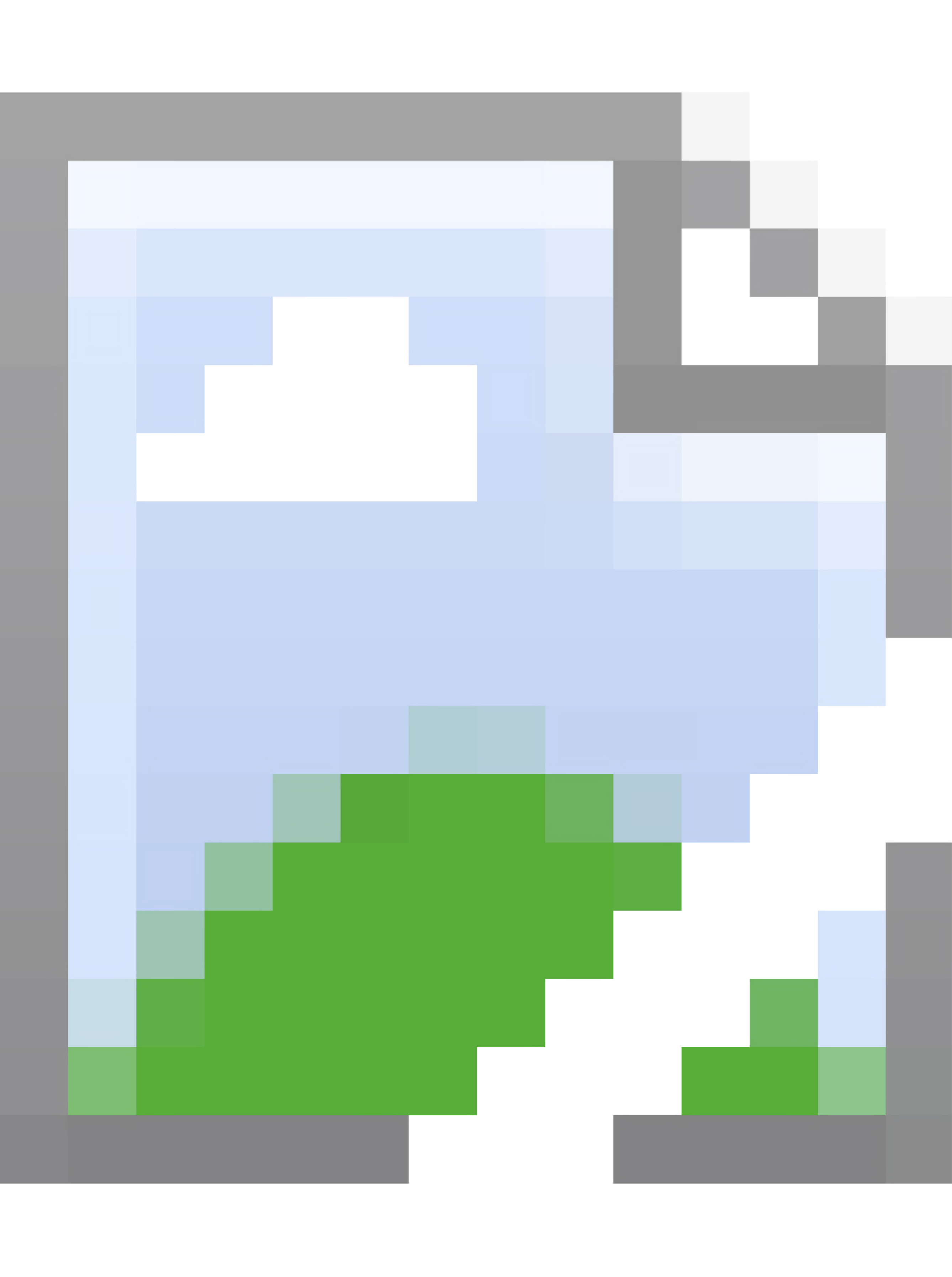
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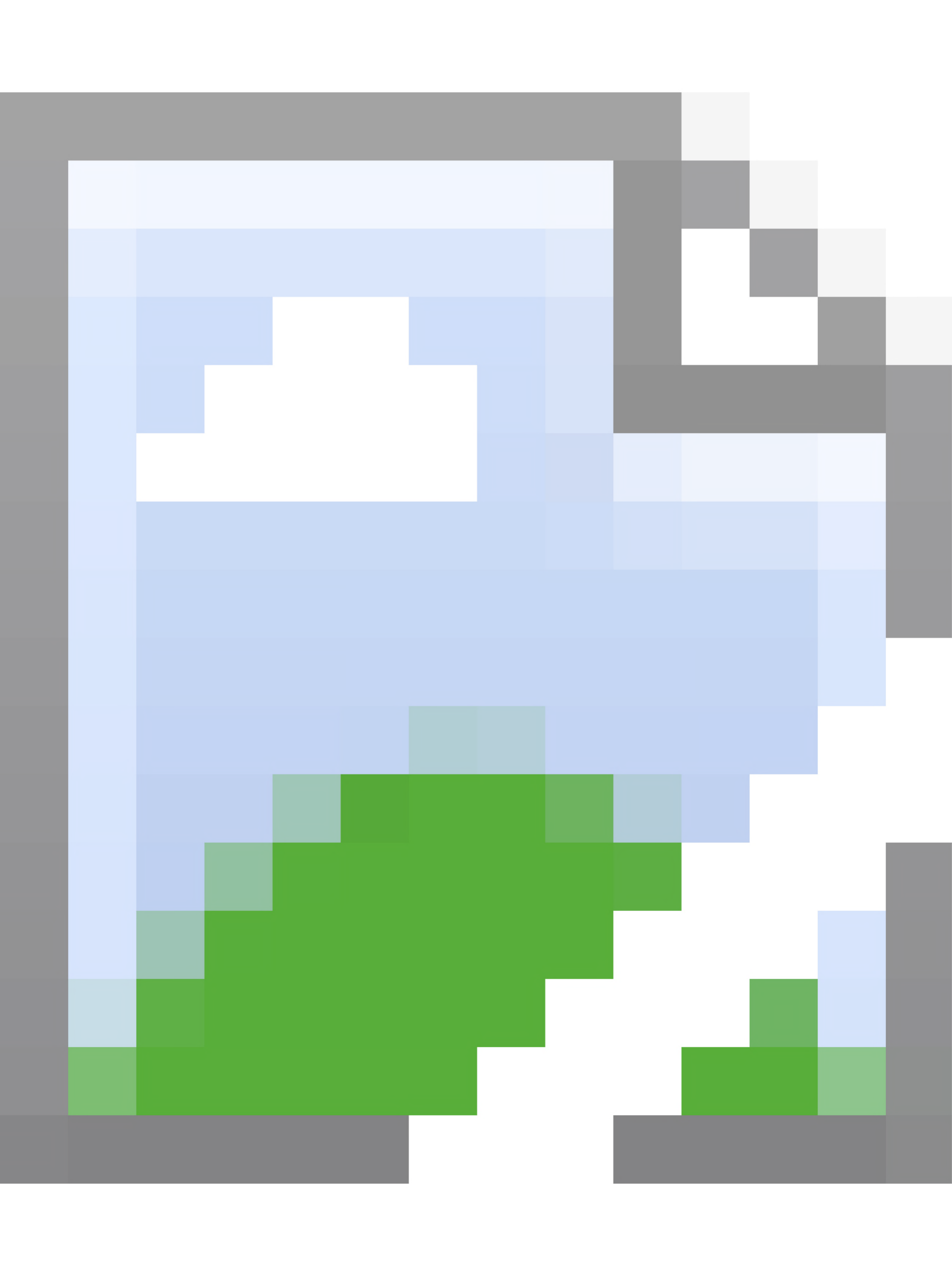
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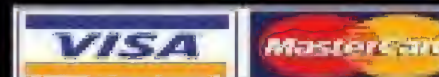
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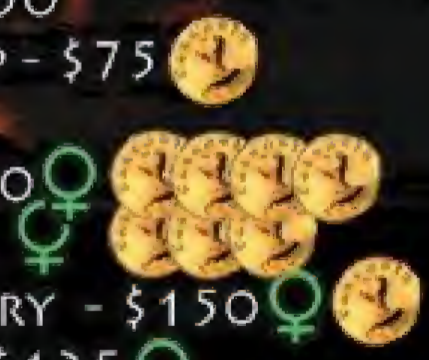
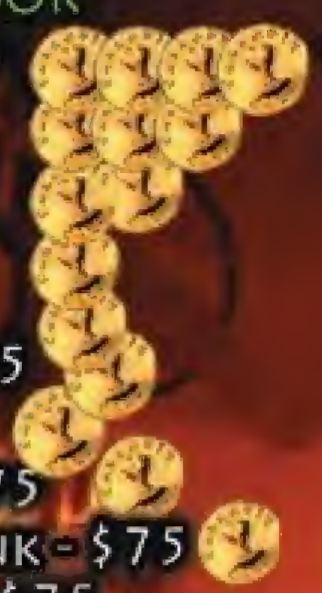
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